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POLL RESULTS

Do you believe Russian and Chinese tourists are essential to the survival of the CNMI's tourism industry?

Yes-98

No-81

No opinion-12

Sunday, August 16, 2009



As of August 14, 2009

Phase 6: The pandemic phase, is an indication that a global pandemic is underway.

For more information about the H1N1 flu, contact DPH at 236-8797, Monday to Friday, from 8am to 5pm, 234-8950 during after hours, e-mail cnmiphoc@gmail.com, or visit www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/.

Source: CNMI Department of Public Health, World Health Organization

INSIDE

Wildfires

Some 6,800 firefighters battle to control nearly a dozen blazes across California.

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New Leg

Motola, a female elephant who stepped on a land mine 10 years ago, is fitted for an artificial leg.

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Kilili seeks federal investigation on 'investment scam' **PAGE 2**
\$15.2M to enhance volcano watch in CNMI, others. **PAGE 3**

Man falls from cliff line, drowns

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A Korean businessman who owns the Paris Croissant Bakery in Garapan drowned when he fell from a cliff line while fishing in Cow Town, Marpi, Saturday afternoon.

See **MAN** on Page 4

16 of 61 requests for exemptions from hiring ban OK'd

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
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REPORTER

Senate President Pete P. Reyes (R-Saipan) and House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios (R-Saipan) approved 16 of 61 requests by government agencies for an exemption in the hiring restrictions under the Fiscal Year 2009 budget law.

Of the 61 requests for hiring ban exemptions since the second week of April, 29 were disap-

See **EXEMPTIONS** on Page 4

Tropical disturbance seen heading for the Northern Islands

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

A tropical disturbance intensified yesterday northeast of Pohnpei and was heading toward the northern islands of the CNMI in the next few days.

The National Weather Service said that, as of 2:30pm yesterday, the tropical disturbance

See **TROPICAL** on Page 4

Hundreds pay last respects to Dr. Inos

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

Hundreds of community members joined the bereaved family of the late Dr. Rita H. Inos on Saturday when her remains were brought to Mount Carmel Cathedral for public viewing.

As early as 7:30am people were already lining up for a glimpse of the late educator, who was recognized by various groups and organizations for her valuable contributions to the CNMI education and communities.

Hundreds of staffers from the Public School System made the first tribute to their former boss, headed by Board of Education members and previous and present Education Commissioners Dr. Rita A. Sablan, David Borja, and Elizabeth Rechebei.

Attired mostly in white, school administrators and their staff offered a song and symbolic things—pencils, books, mwars, etc.—that epitomized the legacies of Dr. Inos.

In her message, Education Commissioner Sablan said they find it very difficult to bear the news of Inos' death.

"It seems just like just yesterday when we were working together with Dr. Inos, trying to make sure

See **HUNDREDS** on Page 4



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

A Catholic priest offers prayers in front of the casket of the late educator Dr. Rita H. Inos during a memorial service at the Mount Carmel Cathedral in Chalan Kanoa on Saturday before her body was flown to Rota.



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Local



Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan addresses a diverse crowd during his first town hall meeting on Saipan on Friday night.

HAIDE V. EUGENIO

Sablan seeks fed investigation on 'investment scam'

Favors improved status for long-term guest workers

By HAIDE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

in the CNMI within a certain period in the past.

Press secretary Charles Reyes, during the town hall meeting, asked Sablan why he has not supported a further delay in federalization when he knows the economic loss of the CNMI not having continued access to Chinese and Russian tourists as well as foreign workers, and DHS not being prepared to implement regulations.

Sablan said he has had meetings with Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano where he pointed out DHS' slow actions. He said in the weeks ahead, he will have a decision whether to support a call for a delay.

Scam

The delegate also said that on Friday, he asked the U.S. Attorney's Office to prosecute those individuals—"locals and foreigners"—who are involved in an investment scam which he said makes it harder to justify a delay in federalization.

"It has to stop," he said.

In July, Sablan had already warned against the "false" promotion of the CNMI in Korea, saying an investor status in the CNMI will not automatically grant any foreign businessman the same status in the United States as some individuals in the community want foreign investors to believe.

"That's blatantly false. I know of a company that's promoting that in Korea. It's false, it's a scam, and it needs to be stopped now," Sablan had said, adding that his statement should serve as a warning to anybody doing such false promotion.

He again asked that the identity of the company and some individuals who may be involved be withheld at this time, and let the federal investigation takes its course.

The Fitial administration has been aggressive in enticing foreign businesses to invest in the CNMI.

Press secretary Reyes, when asked for comment yesterday, said the Fitial administration is prepared to enforce all local laws and urges the federal government to enforce all applicable federal laws in the CNMI.

See **SABLAN** on Next Page

In his first town hall meeting on Saipan Friday night, Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) spoke not only of his request to the U.S. Attorney's Office to prosecute people involved in an alleged investment scam that falsely promotes the CNMI in South Korea, but also shared his support of granting improved immigration status to long-term nonresident workers.

He also said that the U.S. Department of Homeland Security is expected to issue investor regulations in the next few weeks, but added that the federal agency is not obligated to issue the CNMI-only transitional worker program rules or any H visa rules before Nov. 28.

Sablan also called on local government officials to speak with one voice on military issues and not do things on their own, particularly on the military's planned use of Pagan island for amphibious landing training for U.S. Marines.

He also reiterated his stance against another extension of the start of transition to federal immigration system, but said DHS, at this time, is not ready to implement Public Law 110-229.

He said it would be better to grant improved status to long-term nonresident workers, immediate relatives of Freely Associated States citizens, CNMI permanent residents and others who have long been contributing to the local economy rather than bring in new workers under H visas.

Sablan said giving these categories of people an opportunity to remain here under federalization will be a "win-win situation for us," rather than having this matter addressed at a later time and get caught up in the national immigration reform by next year. He said these documented long-term workers entered and remained here legally.

Jean Cruz of Taotao Tano urged Sablan to be careful about supporting improved status for long-term nonresident workers, especially those with U.S. citizen children.

But Sablan said those who should be considered should be

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\$15.2M to enhance volcano watch in CNMI, others

Residents and critical infrastructure in the nation's six highest-risk volcanic areas—including the Northern Mariana Islands—will benefit from increased monitoring and analysis as a result of Recovery Act funds being channeled into volcano monitoring, Interior Secretary Ken Salazar announced Thursday.

The U.S. Geological Survey is planning to use \$15.2 million of its American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds to upgrade volcano monitoring and the analysis and distribution of eruption information at the five volcano observatories that cover Wyoming, Alaska, Hawaii, the Northwest, California, as well as the network that covers the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

"These stimulus funds will not only create or preserve jobs, but also could very well preserve lives," said Salazar. "The funds help protect both people on the ground as well as airline passengers flying over the eruption-prone regions. At the same time that the funds are helping

public safety, they are also spurring scientific innovation with economic benefits."

The Northern Marianas, an island archipelago in the western Pacific, contains some of the United States' most active explosive volcanoes. They threaten not only international air and shipping routes, but also the CMNI's main island of Saipan and the U.S. territory of Guam. A large eruption in the 1980s required the evacuation of the northern islands, and former residents cannot return because of inadequate volcano monitoring.

ARRA funds will be devoted to upgrading existing networks on two islands, Anatahan and Sarigan, to full operation, and to enhancing the monitoring of volcanic sulfur dioxide gas on Saipan, as the gas from nearby Anatahan periodically poses a health hazard there.

Alaska Volcano Observatory monitors this area, in cooperation with scientists from the Hawaii and Cascades volcano observatories.

Work to be conducted with ARRA funds is divided into six projects, coinciding with the six high-risk volcanic areas in the United States. These allocations are:

- \$950,000 for the Yellowstone Volcano Observatory;
- \$7.56 million for the Alaska Volcano Observatory;
- \$2.4 million for the Cascades Volcano Observatory in Washington state;
- \$3.3 million for the Hawaiian Volcano Observatory;
- \$200,000 for the Long Valley Observatory in California; and
- \$800,000 for upgrading networks in the CNMI.

The funds for all of the observatories will support universities and local government agencies as scientific partners in volcano observatory activities, as well as private sector companies that manufacture scientific instruments, provide aviation services, and supply computer expertise.

The United States and its territories contain 169 volcanoes

considered capable of erupting. One, Kilauea in Hawaii, has been erupting continuously for the past 26 years, at times inundating residential areas with lava and at other times requiring national park closures due to explosions and toxic gas.

Another, Redoubt Volcano in Alaska, shot ash clouds to heights of more than 50,000 feet several times this year. The three-month long eruption appears to have paused and may have ended, but not before severely disrupting aviation operations, repeatedly dusting Alaskan communities with ash, and

forcing an oil storage facility to suspend operations.

The USGS volcano observatories warn of impending eruptions, track ongoing eruptions in real time, and assist communities and the flying public in minimizing their vulnerability to volcano hazards. Monitoring volcanoes is a diverse activity that requires networks of geophysical instruments on volcanoes transmitting data to observatories, coupled with the capabilities to detect ash, volcanic gas, and hot spots with satellite imagery; to measure gas and

acquire thermal imagery from aircraft; and to understand past behavior of the volcanoes and what human activities and infrastructure are at risk.

Volcano monitoring is only effective if linked to rapid means for communication of hazard information to communities, businesses, government agencies, and the public. ARRA funds will be used to modernize instrumentation and information systems to state-of-the-art, providing the necessary tools to communicate hazard information quickly to those who need it. (USGS)

SABLAN

From Page 2

"We thank Sablan for leads," he said, adding that the government welcomes all "legitimate investors and will not tolerate law violations."

Well attended

At least 60 people of diverse backgrounds showed up at Sablan's town hall meeting held at the Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

Many of them lauded Sablan for holding a town hall meeting so they could ask him, raise their concerns, and hear from him directly.

One of them was Susana Macaranas who went with her husband Bill. "I came here because I wanted to hear directly from him about federalization, military buildup and other programs," she said.

Candy Taman asked Sablan to "continue this type of congregation. Others asked about the national health care reform which Sablan said does not apply to the CNMI.

Others like Joseph Reyes, along with his wife, sought help on road projects. Reyes said he has long been asking the Department of Public Works and the Saipan Mayor's Office to pave the road in the Obyan area, to no avail. Sablan said he could not guarantee action from the appropriate agencies but offered help in bringing this again to these agencies' attention.

Sablan gave the crowd a report on his first eight months in office, including the federal grants that his office worked to obtain for the CNMI, the bills he introduced in U.S. Congress that included Commonwealth

control of submerged lands, greater opportunities for CNMI residents in education, military schooling, and social service programs, among other things.

He said if the CNMI government does not comply with federal stimulus funding grant requirements, then it will lose an opportunity that may not be available again for a long time. Besides millions in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act money waiting to be tapped, he also noted unused capital improvement projects.

Sablan also held a town hall meeting on Rota on Thursday night. The meeting on Tinian

will be held tonight in the Tinian Elementary School cafeteria, and another town hall meeting on Saipan will be held in the Kagman High School cafeteria Tuesday night.



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Teachers Institute registration opens

The NMI Council for the Humanities has opened registration for the 2009 Teachers Institute.

The Institute comprises six eight-hour sessions that will be held on consecutive Saturdays from Sept. 19 to Oct. 24.

This annual program, co-sponsored by the Council and the Public School System, provides classroom teachers with a thorough overview of the history of the Northern Mariana Islands from ancient times to present. Sessions will feature presentations by experts in the various areas of local history and cur-

CONTACT INFO

NMI Humanities Council
■ Tel: 235-4785
■ Web: www.nmihumanities.org

rent events.

The Institute is open to K-12 teachers in both public and private schools on Saipan, Tinian and Rota. Teachers from Rota and Tinian will participate via video teleconferencing.

A non-refundable registration fee of \$75 covers PowerPoint presentations, re-

freshments and a completion certificate.

Successful completion of the Institute will allow PSS teachers to fulfill the local history requirement of their teaching credentials.

Registration forms and the Institute schedule may be obtained from the Humanities Council office in Dandan, at the Human Resource Office at PSS central on Capitol Hill, or downloaded from the Council's website at www.nmihumanities.org.

The registration deadline is 4pm on Sept. 11, 2009. Institute seating is lim-

TROPICAL

From Page 1

was located 1,050 miles east-southeast of Guam and Saipan.

According to the weather agency, the tropical disturbance is steadily developing and may intensify into a tropical depression within the next 24 to 36 hours.

With maximum winds near the center estimated at 15 to 20 miles per hour, the tropical disturbance's apparent

movement is around five mph to the west-northwest.

The agency said the forecast indicates that the disturbance will move west-northwest in the next two to three days toward the northern islands of the CNMI.

"Since this is near the peak of the tropical cyclone season in the western Pacific... residents of the Marianas are advised to be wary of this tropical disturbance and closely monitor its development over the next couple of days," the weather agency said.

A weak disturbance can quickly turn

into powerful typhoons within a couple of days during late summer or early fall in this part of the western Pacific, commonly called Typhoon Alley.

"It has been several years since the Marianas have been threatened by a typhoon. Now is a good time to review your preparedness procedures and restock your emergency kits well before a typhoon watch or warning is declared," the agency said.

A typhoon watch means damaging winds of 39 mph from a typhoon are possible within the next 48 hours.

HUNDREDS

From Page 1

that PSS' vision, mission, and goals are in their right places," she said, describing Inos as a visionary leader.

"She knew that the next best thing for every child following birth is a quality education," Sablan said.

Sablan said Inos wanted PSS to operate like a Fortune 500 business enterprise, with high-tech equipment, effective and sound policies, efficient operational procedures and with a budget that will ensure that there is a teacher in every classroom, and support staff to carry out the vision of the system.

"Dr. Inos dedicated most of her life to the education of our children in our island communities, in the Pacific region, and in the national arena. Her legacy as a professional educator will never be forgotten as we carry on with the strategic priorities and educational initiatives that she developed for us," Sablan said.

On the lighter side, Sablan described Inos as a cheerful, fun, and compassionate person.

"Dr. Inos was always there when you needed help or guidance or just wanted to share an idea. She instilled the 'PSS Family' concept. No one was a guest at PSS. Everyone was family," she added.

Northern Marianas College board of regents chair Charles V. Cepeda, along with NMC staff, expressed gratitude for Dr. Inos' guidance at NMC.

Cepeda, who succeeded Dr. Inos to the position of board chair, spoke of how Inos inspired and motivated him to become a good leader for NMC.

"NMC is indebted to Dr. Inos for her dedication to public service, commitment to education, and effective advocacy of students," he said.

A visibly affected Sen. Maria Frica Pangelinan, who described Inos as one of her dearest friends, said she will dearly miss a "sister" and loving friend. "Hope I can spend coffee with her tomorrow," she added.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, along with Lt. Gov. Eloy Inos, handed Inos' husband Cristobal and daughters Denise and Blossom a plaque of appreciation for Dr. Inos' accomplishments and con-

Municipal Council, and the Pacific Regional Education Learning.

The occasion was also highlighted by the recitation of a poem offered by Inos' colleagues at the Humanities Council and the message and prayers offered by retired educators.

Inos' nephew, folk singer Parker Yobei, performed a special song he composed for the occasion, *Angel*.

In his message to the crowd, Cristo-



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Jose DLG. Sanchez, center, leads the reading of a poem in honor of the late educator Dr. Rita H. Inos, whose photo is printed on special paper, during a memorial service at the Mount Carmel Cathedral in Chalan Kanoa on Saturday before her body was flown to Rota where she's laid to rest. The special tribute is from the Gurupon Maribisian Deksenarion Fino' Chamorro, the NMI Council for the Humanities, and the Chamorro-Carolinian Language Policy Commission.

tributions to the CNMI.

"We offer this plaque to the family of Dr. Inos in tribute to her legacy... She was a consummate educator, devoted public servant, and a pioneer in the development of our public school system. Dr. Inos was very much loved by our people," Fitial said.

Inos was Fitial's running mate during his unsuccessful bid for the gubernatorial post in 2001.

Members of the Legislature also offered separate commemorative resolutions to the bereaved family, along with the Northern Marianas College, NMI Council for the Humanities, Saipan

bal Inos stated: "During these moment as we grieve the loss of a dearly beloved wife, mother and grandmother, we thank God for relatives and friends from near and far, who embraced us with their outpouring of love, care, kindness and support during our greatest and most painful time of sorrow."

The special Mass, tribute, and public visitation concluded 12pm Saturday. Inos' remains were immediately flown to Rota. The funeral and interment is scheduled Tuesday, Aug. 18.

Inos, 55, passed away on Aug. 10 at the Commonwealth Health Center of cancer.

ited and teachers will be registered on a first come, first served basis.

Interested teachers are asked to con-

tact Council staff at 235-4785 for additional details about this upcoming program. (PR)

EXEMPTIONS

From Page 1

proved by the presiding officers of the Legislature while 16 others are still pending.

Reyes, in an interview, said the approvals were justified by the requesting agencies, including the Department of Finance, which he said is in dire need of accountants.

"If the government wants to collect more, it needs to work on hiring people who would help collect more," he told *Saipan Tribune*. "We disapproved a lot of the requests because we felt they're not critical."

Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee chair Sen. Maria "Frica" Pangelinan (D-Saipan) said she earlier recommended the hiring of seven personnel for Finance after a review of government personnel and budget needs.

Based on data from Reyes' office, the presiding officers of the Legislature approved, since April 7, the hiring of 16 government employees for nine agencies or offices. These include:

- An administrative officer and an assistant clerk of court at the Supreme Court.

- An executive secretary and an accountant for the Saipan Mayor's Office.

- A secretary to the associate judge and a records assistant at the Superior Court.

- An executive secretary and a community worker at the Northern Islands Mayor's Office.

- A surveying trainee 1 and two Managaha rangers 1 at the Department of Public Lands.

- A legal assistant at the Public Defender's Office.

- A legal secretary at the Office of the Attorney General.

- An accountant 2 and an accountant 4 at the Department of Finance's Division of Finance and Accounting.

- A planner 3 at the Rota Mayor's Office/Department of Lands and Natural Resources.

The 2009 budget law restricts hiring of new employees in any branch of the government, including public corporations, municipalities, boards, commissions, authorities, and independent agencies until Sept. 30, 2009.

It, however, allows replacement hires that are deemed critical to the delivery of public service, but only with the approval of the House speaker and the Senate president.

Among those exempted from the hiring restrictions are doctors, nurses, teachers and police officers, Reyes said.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial signed the \$156.76 million FY 2009 budget law on March 13, allowing for more than 4,000 full-time employees.

Two days later, an administrative assistant started working for \$24,999.52 a year.

The administrative assistant's salary was much higher than the \$13,703.04 annual salary of the clinical attendant 1 who started working three days after the budget bill became law.

A conservation technician earning \$11,279.84 a year started working on March 23.

Isidro K. Seman, acting director of the Office of Personnel Management, had provided a list of new hires since the enactment of Public Law 16-32 on March 13, in response to an inquiry from House Ways and Means Committee chair Rep. Ray N. Yumul (R-Saipan).

Yumul had said there may be other new government hires but said he had yet to get more information because the OPM director's letter covered only between March 13 and April 21.

Last week, Lt. Gov. Eloy Inos said the government's budget shortfall—two months before the end of FY 2009 on Sept. 30—may force "temporary separation" from government of some contract employees. The administration eyes a \$4.1 million remittance to the general fund by the Marianas Public Land Trust. The amount was listed as "recovered interest" resource in the 2009 budget.

MAN

From Page 1

Sources in the Korean community told *Saipan Tribune* that the victim is Ki Bok Han, 52.

Han is survived by his wife, Young Sook Han, and two children, who are both in the U.S. mainland.

Young Sook Han and the Korean community held prayers yesterday afternoon at the Commonwealth Health Center's chapel, located near CHC's morgue.

The Department of Public Safety is expected to release more information about the incident today, Monday.

A witness told *Saipan Tribune* there were three of them who were fishing at the cliff line in Cow Town Saturday beginning at 12 noon.

The witness, a Korean male, said that around 3pm, Han left their place and walked in the direction of another group of people who was also fishing near the area.

As he was walking toward the other group, a big wave suddenly came and hit Han, who was then dragged into the water, the teary-eyed witness said.

The witness said he immediately called police. He said it took an hour before Boating Safety officers arrived.

Boating Safety officers later recovered Han's body and brought him to CHC where he was pronounced dead by a doctor.

Another Korean man who declined to be identified said he had known Han for eight years now and that he was a very friendly and nice person.

Han was known for his love for cliff line fishing. He would often go cliff line fishing with friends.

Han is the second drowning victim in the CNMI this year.

Last June, a Japanese tourist drowned while swimming with his wife at a beach in front of Hyatt Regency Saipan in Garapan.

Last Dec. 30, a Korean tourist drowned after he fell from the cliff line at Dump Coke, a fishing area on Tinian.

Last Dec. 23, a Japanese tourist drowned while swimming with his daughter at Micro Beach in Garapan, Saipan.

Last Nov. 22, a fishing boat crew member reportedly drowned when he fell into the ocean near the island of Guguan.

NMC 'inactive programs' still unavailable this Fall

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Inactive programs will remain unavailable for Northern Marianas College students this Fall semester due to the extensive review being conducted by the institution, according to its officials.

Board of Regents chairman Charles V. Cepeda told *Saipan Tribune* that reactivation of these programs will depend on the result of the evaluation being done by the

college management. "An extensive program review will determine if and when programs are reactivated. This must be justified by data and evidence including market demand and sustainability," Cepeda said.

The college placed on inactive status 18 certificate programs in Spring 2008 due to low enrollment.

Cepeda said it is solely the management's responsibility—through PROAC and the shared governance process—to recommend any reactivation. The board's involvement in this process will be at the budget review level only.

According to NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez, the decision to stop offering the 18 programs in 2008 was meant to

align programs goals with the needs of the community.

She said evidence used to guide this decision included examination of data on market demand, enrollment and graduation trends, program costs, and personnel costs.

Fernandez said NMC is currently working on studying market trends, enrollment statistics, and other data to determine not only whether these programs will be activated, but whether other new, more timely programs will be offered.

"Meeting the CNMI's workforce needs is a high priority at the college. We want to ensure that our students are equipped with the academic background as well as the technical skills necessary for jobs of the 21st

century," Fernandez told *Saipan Tribune*.

Fernandez, however, noted that, although some programs are inactive, this does not mean they have been eliminated.

"Now that the second cycle of program review is completed, it's even clearer that the college and its programs need to work more closely with external government agencies and private organizations such as the Saipan Chamber of Commerce to more accurately assess the market demand for various programs at the college," said Fernandez.

In particular, she added, several factors of the labor market need to be considered such as the evolving labor needs of the CNMI's public and private sectors, the impending federaliza-

tion of immigration, the military buildup on Guam, and the return of Army reservists from Iraq.

"Market demand and other evidence collected through program review will determine which inactive programs will be reactivated, or what new programs may be introduced," said Fernandez.

Among the 18 NMC degrees and certificate programs that are inactive are accounting, business management, computer applications, hospitality management, office technology administration, sales and marketing, culinary arts, food and beverage services, hotel operations, and office technology administration.

An analysis of enrollment and graduation statistics showed that these programs have had limited to no enrollment, or graduation from, in the past eight academic years.

NMC registration week ongoing

Registration will be ongoing for the upcoming Fall 2009 semester at the Northern Marianas College from Aug. 17 to Aug. 21, 2009. Those interested in furthering their education and advancing their professional careers can register for courses this week.

The college offers several degree and certificate programs, including a bachelor of science degree in elementary education, associate degrees in business, business administration (emphasis on accounting, business management, or computer applications), liberal arts, nursing, natural resource management, criminal justice, and hospitality management. Moreover, it offers short-term certificate programs in different vocational, academic, and professional areas.

New students are required to take an English and Math placement test before they register. After taking the placement tests, students can obtain the required slip from the English department and meet with their academic advisors. NMC academic advisors will help new students fill in registration forms and create class schedules. Students can then finish the registration process

in Room D-1.

Application for admissions will still be accepted until the last day of registration on Aug. 22, provided that both placement tests have been taken. Note the following dates:

- Aug. 17-21: Fall Regular Registration (9am – 6pm)
- Aug. 21: English Placement Test in D-1 (9am – 12pm)
- Aug. 21: Student Orientation in D-1 (10am – 12pm)
- Aug. 22: Late Registration (9am – 12pm)
- Aug. 24: First day of Fall classes

CONTACT INFO

Office of Admissions and Records
Tel: 234-5498 Ext. 1528
Web: www.nmcnet.edu

- Aug. 24: "Welcome Fair" from 10am to 2pm
- Aug. 24: Student Orientation in D-1 (5:30pm)

■ Aug. 24-28: Add/Drop Week (100 percent refund)

Ongoing students must clear any outstanding balances at the Finance Office, the Library or the Curriculum Resource Center before they can register for classes. To find out if any balances exist, students can visit the Office of Admissions and Records.

For additional information or inquiries, contact the Office of Admissions and Records at 234-5498 ext. 1528, or log on to www.nmcnet.edu. (PR-NMC)



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August 17, 2009
Tinian Elementary School
6:00pm-8:00pm

August 18, 2009
Kagman High School Cafeteria
6:00pm-8:00pm

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Face to Face with U.S. Congressman Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan

YOUTH CONGRESS

17 resolutions, 4 bills passed

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A total of 17 resolutions, mostly commemorative measures, were passed by the recently adjourned 11th Youth Congress under the leadership of Youth Speaker Alana May Leon Guerrero.

The bills passed, meantime, totaled four for the entire term of 23 youth senators from various precincts and schools.

Saipan Tribune learned that of these four bills, not one has been formally considered by the House of Representatives.

Youth Congress bills and resolutions serve as strong suggestions for the islands' lawmakers.

Youth Congress records show that the youth speaker, Leon Guerrero, authored two of the four measures, which call for the prohibition of the use of cell phones and handheld radios while driving a car and to strengthen the penalties for minors consuming alcoholic beverages and establishments that sell these products to minors.

Former youth senator Adeleyah Mojica also offered a bill that would mandate the Department of Public Safety to remove dead animals from highways and roads; while former youth leader Donnie Dosalua offered one measure.

Included in the 17 resolutions adopted by the 11th Youth Congress are the request to appropriate sufficient funding to purchase sports equipment for Rota schools, as offered by former youth senator Johora Paeda; a request to provide recycle bins within villages and public schools, offered by Adeleyah Mojica; and a proposal to establish health clinics in four public high schools, authored by Jessel Mesa.

Leon Guerrero also asked the DPS' Office of Adult Probation and the Board Of Parole for stricter enforcement and monitoring of registered sexually violent predators.

Other notable resolutions approved by members were their support to amend the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance Act to cover high school honor students taking college courses, offered by Sunny Frank Aldan; and request for a sufficient funding for the repair and maintenance of the beach side pavilions in the northern precincts, as offered by youth senator Maegan Norita.

The rest of the 17 resolutions passed were commendations for individuals, groups, and institutions that made significant achievement or contribution in various fields of interest.

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CNMI averages 15 patients with flu in 24-hour period

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI averages about 15 patients with flu within a 24-hour period, according to the Department of Public Health, which recently declared that there is now a community-wide transmission of the novel influenza H1N1.

Acting Health Secretary Pete Untalan said this number

is usually common with the seasonal flu.

The number of confirmed H1N1 cases in the CNMI remains at six as of last Friday's news briefing about the DPH's efforts to prevent and control the spread of the virus.

The six H1N1 patients have now fully recovered.

DPH said there has been a recent spike in the number of flu

patients on Rota and Tinian.

"But we don't know yet if it was H1N1 related. We are only aware that there is a community transmission of the virus and we will continue to be proactive about it," Untalan said.

DPH said about 80 patients with flu were recorded on Rota alone.

"We are asking the public to be cautious, just as we continue

to be vigilant," Untalan said.

DPH said an H1N1 vaccine will be available in the next few weeks and assured the public that there would be enough supply for everyone.

However, DPH will prioritize giving the vaccines to those who are more susceptible to the illness, such as pregnant women. As such, they are on top of the list.

The others, in order of pri-

ority, are school age kids, infants, health care workers, emergency management and the general public.

"There will be no need to panic," said Untalan.

Limiting visiting hours

The DPH said it also poised to implement a new policy on visits to the Commonwealth Health Center.

Untalan said this is part of the overall plan for a proactive ef-

fort use of the hospital.

"We are looking at access to the hospital; however, we will be recommending limited visiting hours," Untalan said.

The new visiting hours will be from 10am to 1pm and from 6pm to 8pm and the age limit for a visitor is 18.

They will also limit one visitor per patient.

"It is difficult but we need to protect our limited number of resources," Untalan added.

No school closures due to swine flu without DPH giving go-signal

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Department of Public Health is not recommending any closure of local schools unless there is sufficient grounds to declare an epidemic of the swine flu virus in a particular school.

Acting Public Health Secretary Pete Untalan said this is based on the guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

"School closure is not on our agenda. What we are trying to do is prevention and control.

So we want school administrators to have an adequate supply of towels, clean water, etc., in school facilities and offices," said Untalan.

DPH is also asking for the support of parents by not sending their children to school if they are sick.

"This is the only way we can prevent the virus from further spreading to other kids," Untalan said.

DPH will be meeting on Aug. 21 with school principals at the Southern High School in Koblerville to brief them on the

health guidelines.

"We want to make ourselves available to them and meet the principals and even the parents," Untalan said.

DPH said it is implementing a system that focuses more on mitigation of the virus' spread in the community.

The CNMI is still under the phase 6 pandemic alert status, as declared by the World Health Organization.

So far, there have been only six confirmed cases of H1N1 infection on the islands, although the DPH had estimated that about

a hundred-plus are presumed to have contracted the virus.

"It may have been in the community as early as June. But now

we know it is in the community. However, as to mortality, not yet," said Untalan.

Epidemiologist Ed Diaz said that, like the seasonal flu, the swine flu virus also has a po-

tential to be dangerous.

The key thing, he said, is to educate the public, like pregnant women and the elderly, who are most susceptible to the danger.

Buckingham, two others to be sworn in today

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial is set to swear in today Edward R. Buckingham as the new CNMI attorney general, a position that's been vacant since September 2008.

The Senate confirmed Buckingham's nomination Friday morning on a 9-0 vote.

Press secretary Charles Reyes said a brief swearing in ceremony will be held shortly before Fitial begins his Cabinet meeting this morning.

Besides Buckingham, two others will also be sworn in after the Senate confirmed their nominations, also on Friday.

They include Jerry P. Crisostimo, whom Fitial named to the Retirement Fund board trustees representing Saipan, replacing Juan T. Guerrero who stepped down from the position two weeks ago.

During the Senate session on Friday, Sen. Luis P. Crisostimo

(D-Saipan) abstained from voting, upon the recommendation of his colleagues, to avoid the appearance of a conflict of interest because the nominee is his older brother.

Also to take his oath of office is Jose Itibus, who was re-appointed to the Commonwealth Election Commission and was confirmed by the Senate on a 9-0 vote.

Also during Friday's session, the Senate adopted Senate Commemorative Resolution 16-07, expressing appreciation and recognition to Lt. Col. Harry Camacho Blanco, the highest-ranking Army commissioned officer currently on active duty status from the CNMI. A copy of the resolution was presented to Blanco on Aug. 16 when he visited Saipan along with officials from the U.S. Army Japan & I Corps (Forward).

The Senate also adopted Senate Commemorative Resolutions 16-08 and 16-43, hon-

oring the late Antonio V. Deleon Guerrero and Dr. Rita H. Inos, respectively.

The senators also adopted SCR 16-44, extending condolences to the family of the late Juan T. Barcinas.

Rejected

The nine-member Senate rejected House Bill 16-208 SD 1 HD1 on a 7-1 vote, with one abstention.

The House bill seeks to waive the two-year work experience for nonresident nursing graduates of Northern Marianas College who are seeking jobs at private medical clinics.

Only Senate Vice President Felix Mendiola voted yes on the bill, while Senate Floor Leader Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian) abstained. All the other seven senators voted no.

The Senate also deferred action on Crisostimo's Senate Joint Resolution 16-12, asking for 902 discussions on the sub-merged lands issue.



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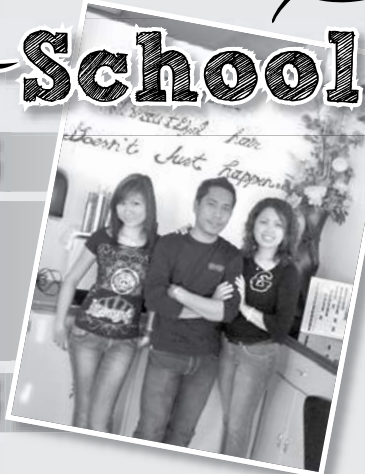
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Food stamp benefits up 12 pct.

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Food stamp beneficiaries will be getting an increase in their monthly take based on the recent approval of over \$12 million federal funding for the program in 2010.

Acting Secretary Melvin O. Faisao of the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs said that under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Block Grant, the CNMI will be receiving a little more than what it had expected to get from this funding.

Faisao said they had expected a funding amount based on the 12.2 percent food increase that the CNMI Department of Commerce provided DCCA.

He said CNMI negotiators had figured an amount of \$12.1 million based on the 12.2 percent increase over the previous amount of \$10,660,000.

"Surprisingly, USDA-FNS has approved an amount of \$12,148,000," said Faisao.

This new figure would mean an additional amount of \$38,000, which translates to a significant increase in each

family's take.

For instance, a family with two dependants that is currently receiving a benefit of \$672 would get an additional \$82, for a total of \$754.

Funding for the CNMI's food stamp program, which is run by the DCCA, also slightly increased in 2009 from the \$10 million level in 2008 to \$11.5 million.

There are nearly 3,000 households and over 7,000 household members receiving food stamp benefits on all three islands of Saipan, Tinian and Rota.

Record shows that on May 2009, a total of 2,733 household and 7,848 household members availed of the food stamp program.

According to the program's income guidelines, to be eligible for food stamps, the size of a family's benefit must be based on its income and certain expenses.

A household must meet three tests.

Its gross monthly income (income before any of the program's deductions are applied) generally must be at or below 130 percent of the poverty line.

For a family of three, the poverty line in federal fiscal year 2009 is \$1,467 a month, according to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities.

So, 130 percent of the poverty line for a three-person family is \$1,907 a month, or about \$22,900 a year.

The poverty level is higher for bigger families and lower for smaller families.

Its net income, or income after deductions are applied, must be at or below the poverty line.

The third test is that the household assets must fall below certain limits.

Households without an elderly or disabled member must have assets of \$2,000 or less and households with an elderly or disabled member must have assets of \$3,000 or less.

Some categories of people are not eligible for food stamps regardless of their income or assets, such as individuals who are on strike, all undocumented immigrants, and certain legal immigrants.

Also, unemployed childless adults are limited to three months of food stamps every three years.

Election results for teachers' group delayed

Results of the election for new Association of Commonwealth Teachers officers have been delayed due to some minor factors, according to the group's election chairperson.

Angela Wheat, poll chairperson, said that, although the election was successfully conducted before the school year 2008-2009 ended in April, the results of the activity has yet to be released and the group is still in the process of getting all ballots from various schools.

Wheat said one of the factors that affected the timely announcement of winners was that many school teachers and participants were off-island during the summer.

However, she assured that the ACT will finish the gathering and tabulation of ballots within the month.

"Hopefully a week and a half at the very most," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

Wheat said there was only one official candidate for the ACT presidency, Sam Joyner.

However, she emphasized that voters are encouraged to vote a write-in candidate in their ballots.

Although the ballots have yet to be counted, Wheat assured that the election materials are sealed and properly accounted for.

Teachers from Rota and Tinian public schools also participated in the election.

"All our public school teachers on three islands were given the opportunity to vote," she said.

Whoever is chosen as new ACT president will succeed Betty Miller, vice principal at San Vicente Elementary School.

According to ACT bylaws, its president will be their official candidate to vie for the election of teachers' representative to the Board of Education. *(Moneth Deposa)*



BREASTFEEDING SEMINAR

Cindy Turner-Maffei of the Healthy Children Project stresses a point in a Julia Robert's movie *Erin Brokovich* presentation during the second day of the Lactation Counselor Certificate Training last week at the Tanapag Head Start.

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Aug 17, 1999

151 illegal aliens arrive on Tinian

A boat carrying about 151 illegal Chinese immigrants arrived yesterday morning on Tinian, four days after the federal government sought again the assistance of the Northern Marianas to provide temporary refuge to these people. The undocumented aliens were immediately transferred to a private warehouse where they were assisted by immigration authorities from both the U.S. and the CNMI. The vessel, the fifth to be diverted by the U.S. Coast Guard to Tinian in four months, reached the San Jose harbor at nine o'clock in the morning. At least seven personnel from the Immigration and Naturalization Service were on hand to meet the Chinese.

Teno backs termination of Manglona

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio yesterday supported moves to remove Laura I. Manglona from the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Board, but tossed the issue back to the Senate following disclosure that she has violated laws restricting government employees from becoming CUC director. He prodded the Senate Committee on Executive Appointments and Governmental Investigations, which confirmed her nomination last June, to give Manglona her walking papers. Tenorio has discussed the plan with Senate Vice President Thomas P. Villagomez, who had earlier called the governor's attention on the oversight which came two weeks after the CUC director took her oath of office -- her second five-year term.

Aug 17, 2000

Labor halts MOU with feds on TWA

The Department of Labor and Immigration ended yesterday a memorandum of understanding with federal labor officials that allows them to refer guest workers with pending labor cases for temporary work authorization or TWA issued by the CNMI government. DOLI informed the U.S. Department of Labor Wage and Hour Division (WH) in San Francisco about the termination ahead of its effective date on Sept. 16, 2000, exactly 30 days based on its terms. In canceling the MOU, Labor and Immigration Sec. Mark D. Zachares accused the division's representatives on Saipan of abusing the agreement in a recent labor case in which more than 150 workers left their employer.

'Raise pay scale'

Vocational education students enrolled at the Northern Marianas College will continue to drop unless there are assurances that trade skill graduates will be well compensated for their services. This statement was disclosed by Adult Basic Education Fe Y. Calixterio yesterday, fresh from a national conference attended by mainland-based vocational education directors. Unless local leaders make a move to raise the pay scale of professionals trained for trade skills, a career in the vocational field will not attract students at all, according to Fe Y. Calixterio, director of Adult Basic Education.

Aug 17, 2001

CNMI to fly in insect

The Commonwealth is planning to import an insect that will help experts prevent the continued propagation of a harmful vine that is said to have already infested four highly-populated areas on Saipan. The Northern Marianas College-Cooperative Research, Education and Extension Service, along with the Department of Lands and Natural Resources and the Hawaii Department of Agriculture, have determined that scarlet gourd stemborer, a moth-like insect, may be used to control the spread of the vine, ivy gourd. Dr. Lee Eavy, entomologist from the NMC-CREES, said the ivy gourd can destroy any living matter underneath it, adding that immediate action should be taken to prevent its further spread.

DOF told to follow up on tobacco funds

The Department of Finance has been asked to provide the Legislature with a comprehensive report on the status of the Commonwealth's share on the \$206 billion tobacco settlement fund. House Committee on Health and Welfare Chair Malua T. Peter yesterday disclosed that the finance department has not reported whether or not the CNMI received its second allotment under the settlement agreement. Peter said the second allotment should have been received by June 2001. The CNMI secured an initial payment of \$815,000 last year. She said her committee expects to receive a briefing from the finance department on the second installment of the tobacco settlement money.



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

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SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE SERVICES FOR THE LOADING BRIDGES
PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-004-09

2nd AMENDED REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting sealed proposals for Preventive Maintenance of the Loading Bridges at the Saipan International Airport on the Island of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The scope of work entails providing preventive maintenance services for four (4) loading bridges. The detailed scope of work will be available at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, 2nd Floor of the Arrival Building on Friday, June 26, 2009. Proposers must submit all required documents listed in the scope of work. All responses to this RFP shall also take into account any and all taxes that will be charged to the proposer awarded the contract for the project, including excise tax.

All proposals shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: "Proposal for the Preventive Maintenance of the Loading Bridges at the Saipan International Airport". One original and four (4) copies of the proposal must be submitted no later than **4:30 P.M. LOCAL TIME, FRIDAY, AUGUST 14, 2009**, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport.

Each proposal shall be accompanied by a proposal bond issued by a CPA approved surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount not less than ten percent (10%) of the total proposal amount. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority. Copies of approved surety companies and the bid bond form may be obtained with the scope of work at the office of the Executive Director on July 22, 2009.

Contractor will be required to obtain insurance policies based on CPA's requirements. These requirements apply to contracts where the Consultant provides designated professional services to the Authority; i.e. appraisers, architects, equipment maintenance, messengers, construction managers, etc. and the total contract price is less than \$250,000. Copies of the insurance requirements may be obtained with the scope of work at the office of the Executive Director on July 22, 2009. The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

All proposals shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ MR. EFRAIN F. CAMACHO, P.E.
Executive Director/Contracting Officer

Date: August 7, 2009



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

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General Maintenance/Improvements to Lighting Fixtures
Saipan Commercial Port
CPA Project No. CPA-SS-003-09

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting sealed proposals for the general maintenance/improvements to 117 light fixtures on thirteen (13) light poles, located along the ocean front of the dock at Saipan Seaport.

A detailed scope of work is available at the office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport. The proposals shall include the following:

- Letter of Interest;
- Project timeframe;
- Available resources to accomplish project;
- Cost Proposal (in itemized scope of work format);
- Valid CNMI Business License; and
- Proof of insurance.

All proposals shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: **"Proposal for the General Maintenance/Improvements to Lighting Fixtures at the Saipan Commercial Port"**. The proposal must be submitted no later than **Monday, August 24, 2009, 4:30 p.m.**, to the Office of the Executive Director, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, at the Saipan International Airport.

Each proposal shall be accompanied by a bid bond issued by a CPA approved surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount no less than ten percent (10%) of the total proposal amount. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations Section 3.6. CPA reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

All proposals shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ MR. EFRAIN F. CAMACHO, P.E.
Executive Director/Contracting Officer

Date: August 6, 2009

More NMI employers ink support for US Guard, Reserve

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A total of 81 employers and supervisors have so far signed statements of support for the U.S. National Guard and Reserve in Fiscal Year 2009.

With over a month left before the end of the fiscal year, others are expected to pledge support to topple the FY 2008 tally of 90. These are based on data provided by Capt. Josephine Blas, public affairs director for the Guam-CNMI Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, ESGR.

Of this figure, 37 statement of support were signed on Friday.

On Saturday, Tan Holdings president Jerry Tan and 16 other Tan Holdings supervisors and managers also signed the statement of support.

Benny Paulino, chair of the Guam-CNMI Committee for ESGR, personally witnessed the signing, along with other committee members.

During a brief signing ceremony at the TSL Plaza on Saturday, Tan said Tan Holdings recognizes the contributions by men and women in the Reserve and Guard and support their re-employment.

He said Tan Holdings is prepared to do more than sign statement of support to help returning Guard and Reserve members who are employed

ON THE NET
www.esgr.mil
CONTACT INFO
Capt Josephine Blas
Public Affairs Director
(671) 483-0324.

by the company.

"No returning Reservist or Guard member will have a problem with Tan Holdings when they return [from deployment]," said Tan, who also chairs the Marianas Visitors Authority board of directors.

During the ceremony, ESGR also presented Century Insurance president David M. Sablan Sr. with a "Seven Seals Award" for his efforts in securing CNMI employers' support to the Guard and Reserve.

ESGR is a U.S. Department of Defense agency formed in 1972 to gain and maintain employer support for Guard and Reserve service by recognizing outstanding support, increasing awareness of the law, and resolving conflict through mediation. ESGR volunteers provide free education, consultation, and if necessary mediation for employers of Guard and Reserve employees.

Paulino, in an interview after the presentation, said CNMI Reservists and Guard members who were deployed last year to conflict areas will be returning to



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Retired U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Benny Paulino, seated second from left, chair of the Guam-CNMI Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, joins Tan Holdings president Jerry Tan, seated center, and 16 other Tan Holdings supervisors and managers for a group photo after signing statement of support for the U.S. National Guard and Reserve at the TSL Plaza on Saturday.

Saipan in the next few days and will be reminded by ESGR of their rights of re-employment.

He also said of the 34 ESGR-related cases that the committee handled this fiscal year, three involved those on Saipan.

In a separate statement, ESGR said Tan Holding joins other employers in pledging that they "fully recognize, honor and enforce the Uniformed Services Employment and Re-Employment Rights Act; that the managers and supervisors "will have the tools they need to effectively manage those

employees who serve in the Guard and Reserve;" and "will continually recognize and support our country's service members and their families in peace, in crises and in war."

"Today, supportive employers are critical to maintaining the strength and readiness of the nation's National Guard and Reserve units. I am asking all Guam and CNMI employers to review and amend their current human resources policies to ensure compliance with the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act,"

Paulino said in a statement.

He said "many employers on Guam and in the CNMI provide "above and beyond" support with pay differential to offset the loss of wages, and extension of health care benefits, which complement coverage provided by the military, when their employees are mobilized.

"By meeting the Statement of Support criteria, Tan Holdings will stand proudly with its Guard and Reserve employees, who continue to answer their nation's call to defend our way of life," he added.

Tan Holdings, one of the largest private employers in the CNMI, owns POI Aviation, Consolidated Transportation Services Inc., Saipan Tribune, FedEx, Century Insurance, Century Travel, Century Finance, Fiesta Resort Hotels (Guam and CNMI), Century Hotel and the Saipan Grand Hotel.

Paulino said by signing the Statement of Support, Tan Holdings is sending a clear message to the employees of Tan Holdings who are serving their country that they do not have to worry about their civilian jobs.



COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CUC-RFP-09-023

FINANCIAL AND COMPLIANCE AUDIT FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2009

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting proposals from qualified firms to perform a financial and compliance audit of the CUC for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2009. The audit must be performed in compliance with the latest revision of the following guidelines:

1. OMB Circular A-133
2. Standards for Audits of Government Organization, Programs, Activities and Functions, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States.
3. Audits of States and Local Government Units, Industry Audit guide issued by the American Institute of Public Accountants (AICPA)

The following information must be included in the audit proposal:

1. **Title Page**
 - a) RFP Subject
 - b) Name of Firm
 - c) Local Address
 - d) Telephone Number
 - e) Name of Contact Persons
 - f) Submission Date
2. **Transmittal Letter**
 - a) A brief statement of your understanding of the work to be performed and an affirmative statement to perform the work within the time period stipulated.
 - b) State all inclusive fees for which the audit will be performed.
3. **Firm's Profile**
 - a) Provide a brief description of your firm's personnel professional/educational background and experience, number of staff, staff level (partner, manager, supervisor, etc.) and client listing.
 - b) The firm shall make an affirmative statement that at least the partners are certified public accountants.

The date of contract award will be no later than September 30, 2009. Audit work shall commence thereafter and must be completed by January 31, 2010.

One (1) original and five (5) copies of the proposals must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RFP-09-023" to Mr. Michael Pai, Public Auditor, Office of the Public Auditor, 1236 Yap Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan, 96950, no later than **3:00 p.m., local time, on September 8, 2009.**

Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. Approach to Project (25 maximum points)
2. Qualifications of the Principal and Proposed Staff (25 maximum points)
3. Experience on Similar Projects (25 maximum points)
4. Time to Complete the Project (20 maximum points)
5. Cost (5 maximum points)

All inquiries regarding the RFP must be directed to Mr. Antonio S. Muna, CUC Executive Director, at (670) 235-7025 - 7032, extension 124.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revisions may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in any proposal if, in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of the CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

ANTONIO S. MUNA
Executive Director



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CUC-RFP-09-024

A&E AND CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF SAIPAN WELL ISOLATION PROJECT

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting proposals from qualified architectural and engineering (A&E) firms for the A&E and Construction Management Services for the Construction of Saipan Well Isolation Project, located on the island of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

This project is funded by a grant from the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under the American Recovery and Reinvestment (ARRA) Act of 2009. Award of this project is contingent upon receipt of funding and approval from EPA.

The key elements of the Design are the following:

1. Design of new transmission lines to connect direct feed wells from different well fields into existing water tank storages to meet all federal safe drinking water standards and requirements. This shall include all the appurtenant valves, fittings and asphalt restoration.
2. Verify if existing pumps will meet new pumping requirement and if not, design and size new pump requirements.
3. Calculate and design new electrical load requirements.
4. Provide hydraulic calculations, cost estimates and construction plans and specifications.
5. Prepare, submit, and secure all necessary project permits for construction.

The complete design shall be completed within **120 days** from the date of the Notice to Proceed (NTP).

The scope of Construction Management services shall include, but is not limited to:

1. Conduct pre-construction conference with contractor(s), review contractor's insurance bond forms, EEO and Labor requirements, consult with CUC and advise on acceptability of subcontractors, and provide list of submittals and requirements.
2. Monitor daily construction activities in compliance with the technical provisions of the contract and specifications, applicable codes and regulations. Make daily site inspections during the course of the project to monitor construction related activities.
3. Provide complete construction administrative functions.
4. Review and approve submittals, working drawings by the construction contractor for general compliance with the intent of the construction contract drawings and specifications. Critical review of the plans and specifications for errors, discrepancies, construction contractor verifications and potential conflicts having impact of the construction activity and schedules.
5. Review construction contractor's application for payment in conformance with the established progress on site and provide a recommendation to CUC regarding quantities of materials in place for partial and final payments.
6. Provide periodic reports, pictures of progress of the project highlighting the critical and pending items and the construction contractor's compliance with approved schedule.
7. Maintain a systematic set of construction files including correspondence, submittals, change orders, claims files, progress payments and test reports which shall be handed over to the CUC at the end of this contract.
8. Conduct weekly project meetings with the construction contractor and CUC to discuss work progress and any concerns relating to the construction.
9. Witness field tests performed by the construction contractor or his representative for compliance with the contract drawings and specifications.
10. Review close-out documents including as-builts, O&M, liens, and all other required documents in the specification.

Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Qualification of the Principal and Proposed Staff (40 Points)
 - Design: 25 Points
 - Construction Management: 15 Points
- Experience in Similar Projects (40 Points)
 - Design: 25 Points
 - Construction Management: 15 Points
- Proposed Project Approach (10 Points)
- Time Frame of Work (10 Points)

Interested parties may pick up the complete Scope of Work at the CUC Water & Wastewater Engineering Section, Room 18, Third Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, during normal working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.). All inquiries concerning this RFP shall be directed to Larry Manacop of the CUC Water & Wastewater Division, at (670) 235-7025 - 7032, extension 150.

One (1) original and five (5) copies of the proposals must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RFP-09-024" to Manny Sablan, CUC Procurement & Supply Manager, Room 4, Third Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **4:00 p.m., local time, on August 20, 2009.** CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfections in the bid proposal if to do so shall be in the best interest of the CUC. All proposals shall become the property of the CUC.

ANTONIO S. MUNA
Executive Director, CUC

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Eunice Kennedy Shriver

“In ancient Rome, the gladiators went into the arena with these words on their lips. ‘Let me win. But if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt.’ ... Let us begin the Olympics.”

On a sunny July day in 1968, Eunice Kennedy Shriver spoke these words at Chicago's Soldier Field to an assembled group of 1,000 intellectually disabled athletes and 100 fans from 26 states and Canada. They are now the official oath of the Special Olympics.

Eunice Kennedy Shriver was a gladiator for a new age. Born into the closest thing America had to a royal family, this middle Kennedy child had a love of sports and an ability to see potential where others saw disability. Moved by the experience of her developmentally disabled sister, Rosemary Kennedy, and by the struggles of other people with disabilities at the facilities where she visited and worked, Ms. Shriver became an advocate for a population that had long lacked a voice.

She attended Stanford University and served in the State Department before taking the helm of the Joseph P. Kennedy Jr. Foundation, established to combat the causes of intellectual disability and to improve the way society dealt with individuals with disabilities. Beginning in the summer of 1962, she hosted Camp Shriver at her Maryland farm, an outdoor camp for mentally disabled children to whom other summer programs were shut. Ponies roamed the lawn, children raced and threw balls, and the dream of a new kind of life for those with disabilities was born.

So when someone suggested a race for Chicago children with intellectual disabilities, the vision sparked to life: not a one-time race but a biennial Special Olympics, founded on the principle that, as Ms. Shriver later said, “all human beings are created equal in the sense that each has the capacity and a hunger for moral excellence, for courage, for friendship and for love.”

Much was given to Ms. Shriver, a Kennedy whose life was destined to play out on the national stage. But she used her influence not to build her own capital or advance her own interests but to help others, to open a world of new possibilities to a population that had been confined to silence and darkness. Under her guidance, the Kennedy Foundation transformed a seemingly impossible vision into an inspiring reality. Where once scarcely 1,000 athletes competed, the Special Olympics now encompasses nearly 3 million athletes from 180 countries.

Yet the numbers alone fail to convey their impact. Founded in an era when those with intellectual disabilities were institutionalized and shut out of the mainstream, the Special Olympics offered participants the opportunity to transcend their limitations and become athletes. The games promote health and self-reliance, inspire friendships, and give rise to tremendous courage. By giving men, women and children with disabilities the ability to compete on a global stage, Eunice Kennedy Shriver proved that they could play on other playing fields, hold jobs, and be students and neighbors.

Her legacy lives on in the millions of people she empowered to strive on the field of competition and beyond—and to be brave in the attempt.

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What were you doing before the elections, Mr. Candidate?

The other day when the deadline closed for registrations, the newspapers reported that 109 candidates had filed their papers for 40 seats in the upcoming November election. I have several questions for all of the candidates.

What have you been doing for the past number of X years? How have you participated in helping the community? Have you ever testified on various legislatures in the past? Have you advocated any improvements for the community during the years before you became a candidate? Have you served on any volunteer community improvement committees? How have you prepared yourself for the position you are seeking?

Simply put, tell us who you really are. What you done in the past to help our community? What are your true motives for wanting to be an elected official? How many of you have read and understand the Constitution? How many of you understand the situation the CNMI finds itself in? Or are you just mouthing what you think we the voters want to hear?

I had to smile when I read that some of you said you want to help solve the CUC problem. Have you ever visited the plant? Have you studied the history of power generation in the CNMI with its multitude of problems? Have you studied what other communities are doing with their power generation that are of the same size as Saipan?

Some of you state you want to help poor people get better medical treatment. Have you studied the operation and problems of the CHC hospital? What do you understand of its problems? Have you talked to anyone at the hospital to get a good understanding on why CHC is in the dire situation it is in? We, the voters, must seriously ask you candidates hard questions if we want sincere and productive winners in the next election. Remember, when we keep voting for the same familiar faces of our relatives whether they have been in the Legislature before or are new candidates, we will only perpetuate the status quo. We must demand quality candidates with a sincere determination to truly help us restore our economic strength. To do any less is to elect do-nothing candidates.

Do we really expect someone who has done nothing in the past to improve our lives, or to suddenly become a champion of our causes? It doesn't work that way. Past experiences will tell us what we can expect from a candidate in the future. Don't throw away this chance. Vote wisely and know why you are voting for certain candidates.

Think of it this way: You the candidates are asking for a position of responsibility. Would we hire you for our company or to operate our personal business or money? Recall whenever you went for a job interview, you had to have a resume. When the interview started, you were asked questions to justify why you should be hired. If you were not able to answer the interviewer's questions, you were not hired.

How many of you are readers? How many of you understand taxation? How many of you understand the relationship between the United States and the CNMI? How many of you have proven that you can speak and think well? How many of you understand how a lawmaking body operates? How many of you have read the history of the CNMI? There are many other questions we will ask. Remember we are asking you to represent us. As you decide for us, so the CNMI will grow or not!

By ANTHONY PELLEGRINO
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Pellegrino is a longtime businessman in the CNMI and is the former president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.



What I am writing about is not to defame any of the candidates. However I am trying to impress on all the candidates of the necessity that we, the voters, must use due diligence and review each of your past performances. No longer can we afford to vote for friends or relatives. Too much is at stake.

Forgive me for being redundant because you have been hearing the above message over and over. However when we enter the voting booth, we forget that. Almost always we end up voting for a relative or friend. If we don't, we walk out with a tinge of guilt. We have let that person down. Nonsense! Vote for the best candidate that will help the community. Besides there is no way he/she will know that you did or did not vote for him. That is why it is a secret ballot.

I am glad to learn that several women are running for office. Women lawmakers serve a good balance with the men. We need both men and women of the community to guide us. Good luck to you all.

Our CNMI has been thrust onto the world scene. Because of the advent of federalization, the bad economy, the departure of nonresident workers, and for being drawn closer into the defense system created in Guam, we need new thinkers. We need young blood. We need elected officials who have studied the changing face of the world and the role the CNMI is being forced to play in it.

I highly recommend a must-read book for everybody who wants to understand what is happening to our world. Read Thomas L. Friedman's book, *The World is Flat!* After you do, your concept of our islands will certainly be changed. Technology has modified everything that we have believed in before.

Think what the computer, cell phone and all the other fascinating technology have done and are doing to our lives. Our isolation has been reduced to seconds away from any part of the earth. We are anywhere we wish to be instantly. And others in the world are in touch with us in seconds also. Our islands are part of the world scene.

To elect officials who are attuned to these changes is to bring us into the 21st Century and help us take our position with pride and dignity. A classic example is Congressman Kilili Sablan, our Washington representative. In only a few months, he has turned much of the negative concepts about the CNMI into positive ones. We need more like him. Bravo to him!

Among the 109 candidates there are sincere and determined candidates. But we must sort them out by our persistent questioning and research. We must stop voting for relatives or friends! We must vote with our head, not with our feelings!

See WHAT on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Unifying Luta

Our affable Rita of Rota took center groove in our tear ducts this past week. The sentiments that poured out during Saturday's memorial service and Eucharistic Mass on the heights of excellence achieved by our esteemed former Commissioner of Education was bottomless.

The word "Luta," another way we spell the island Rota, has three meanings in my limited linguistic acquaintance. One is that of "roots," another the "human habitat, or the human dwelling on earth, or the whole planet itself," and as a verb, "striving." Unifying Luta in today's musings will take all three meanings, in addition, of course, to the place's reference to our departed vanguard in education, Dr. Rita Hocog Inos.

Craig Garrison, SSHS vice-principal, reminded Rita's friends and colleagues at Saturday's event at the Mt. Carmel cathedral on Saipan that Rita the leader used the dual emphases of "sistema," and "familia" as her mantra in driving home her message of the need for system's thinking in our current mode of organizational development, and the attention that needs to be accorded those structures that freight and sustain the cultural values of our common inheritance, in this case, the extended and nuclear family. The "striving" part was manifest in what everyone witnessed during the memorial service, including our current Rita currently at the PSS helm, that Dr. Inos was driven by the unquenchable desire for excellence, for herself and the organization she led.

Sistema

Many people identify with the Cartesian insight of "I think, therefore, I am." Truth is arrived at from deductive reasoning, and if cultic and mystical in nature, truth is either revealed or discovered through many esoteric means, the most recent are called scriptural and constitutional!

The "I know and do, therefore, I be" people tend to be flexible; knowledge and truth come as a process, both methodologically and substantively. Planning as a process is possible on the assumption that the future cannot distinctively be similar to the past. Growth and development is in the nature of reality. Life is organic. Those who hold on to the conserving dynamic say, if it ain't broke, it need no fixing! The progressives liberate reality from the determinism of our addiction to the comfort of the familiar and the previously proven operating patterns and habits; we are to confront the delusions of false security and the

Direchon Natibu Kontra Sudadanu

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Essu hu kepula' asuntun direchon natibu ni uma'akontra yan responsablidad sudadanon Amerikanu pot dueñon tanu guine. Uma'atotpi dos konseptu. I Chamorro yan Karolinas libre gumaitanu. Otru sudadanon Amerikanu tai direchu nu este. Lau i sigundu patte hanae' todos sudadanu parehu direchon niha gumai propiadat tanu.

Guaha proteksionta guine na patte para i natibu. Esta makontesta este na patte gi kontratan i Covenant gi kotten federat. I disision kotte ha onra este na direchon natibu layeye pot proteksion tautauta. Hombre i Indian giya Amerika guaha kabales proteksion niha pot tanu. Ayu mina makat mafunas este na direchon tautauta. Yangin siña i unu pues siña lokue i otro.

Lau i man-ginen lagu na Amerikanu hagas kutturan niha i para u fañgeha yangin guaha linie' niha i justisiao. Komprendiyon. Lau

illusions of ever attaining absolute certitude.

Systems structure change so that it is not too cataclysmic. The social process itself consists of three basic questions: (1) How are we supported and sustained in being? That has to do with utilizing resources; producing products that is both needed and wanted, and creating distribution channels so that actual value can be abstracted into monetary units.

Our current economic crisis is an abstracted one: high finance is too top heavy over the value of production and distribution of consumer goods. The farmer who produces food will be glad if 15 percent accrues to the producer and not consumed by the high cost of distributing goods; the professional will be contented if services proffered gets, at least, 15 percent of the retail cost.

(2) How do we make decisions, ensuring in the current democratic space that the base will ever broadly be comprehensive and highly participatory? For as long as we are mired in the senseless addiction to partisan politics, and the adulation of leadership models as iconic and idolatrous, the masses will remain peons in the fading civilization of empire. The political is a process, e.g., PSS need to shake off its ancient prejudices and rebuild itself in the image of its stakeholders—students, parents, teachers and administrators. Did not Rita of Luta start this?

(3) How do we symbolize the wisdom learned from the past, and what images hold the promise of a future wildly blowing in our faces? The cultural process actually undergirds the political and economic crises.

Familia

Where there is a strong psychological resistance, it is in the image of the stable family. Breakdown of traditional extended family and nuclear family models is the subject of widespread denials; the defense of marriage is an exercise in futility by defending phantasms.

Sixty percent of matrimonial vows hit the rock in the United States. Moralistic definition of sexuality fails as we become more familiar with human psychology as a critical component of commerce. We sell what people wants! What the family had always signified, however, is that it is "where one belongs." It was meant to be inclusive. As a model of community, it welcomed the stranger and took care of the destitute and the marginalized. In fact, among the real royals of the past, to maintain

antes de u tutuhon muna kalaskas sekos niha, oppeyu finenina kau ti parehu este na proteksion

yan ayu i manae' i Indian gi enteru Estados Unidos De Amerika? Ilegu na siempre matman yangin unnæ' nu este na teñguañg.

Hu tuñgu kabales na lamagai bumendi tanu niha. Ti guahu para bai' detetmina disision personat 'sino nesesisat familia. Guiya lamon i prohimu sa' solu dueño gi tano'ña. Iya guaha dididi pinasensia. I tanu lamagai usuña 'nai sinede hau bumenefisia para anaghu na tiempu. Ti u fan gagau naña lau gaige listu para usumu gi oran dichu nesesisat.

Un' patte gi papa' Attikulu XII na debi umana' suha ayu propiu ilelegña na yangin tai haga hau pot lumenos 25 pot sientu Chamorro 'sino Karolinas pues ti siña gumaitanu guine. Ti kombeni este na probision sa' uttimoña ha displanta famaguonta sin ditension. Hafa para u sañgan este siha na famaguon 'an man-mafaisen hafa rasan niha 'sino man-ginen manu siha? Na ti man-patte gi tradision yan kutturan tanu iya Marianas? Pot essu, mauleg ta lagnos este na probision gi primet appottunadat.

By JAIME VERGARA

Special to the Saipan Tribune



Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune's Opinion Section

peace and order, one marries the enemy! We might cultivate the habit of at least mentally embracing our perceived enemies!

Family in the CNMI has become divisive, whether it pertains to land-ownership, asset benefits, or political affiliation. But the lesson is clear, the family is where one belongs, and when a community makes one feels that way, one has found one's family. It is futile to try to protect the family as we have known it. But we would be served well if we see the same institution as subject to our recreation where the onus is not on the kinship relationship by blood but on the covenant of intentionality that affirms one's identity and vocation for the sake of the common good.

In Search of Excellence

Any functioning organization carries with it the seed of its own dysfunction, and any point attained perceived as a state of perfection is the beginning of its demise, a step further on to its own destruction.

It is ironic that Rita the politician was more accomplished as a unifier of diverse political factions at her funeral bier than on the stage of her campaign stumps. As the Methodists would say, one is always journeying toward perfection. When one thinks they have arrived, it is time to meet one's creator.

We do not intend to make light of the grief over Rita Hocog Inos' completed departure, but as was accurately sensed by those who orchestrated the liturgy of her memorial service, and I suspect, in keeping with Rita's character, Nirvana's *Seasons in the Sun* was a chosen processional. The search for excellence is a perpetual journey of striving, knowing that meaning and significance are in the process and not on the destination.

The earth awaits a resurgence. Rita did her part; time to do ours.

Ayu lokue i man-dinisplanta pot man-sudadanon Amerikanu gi siñkuenta yan sisienta siha na sakan debi ta tulaika lokue sa' tau-tauta i ta aminanasa nu este na chatareglu. Hita mismu dumulalag tautauta ni man-estaba otro lugat pot inaligau appottunadat edukasion yan chochu'. Pot primet biahe maila ta aregla halum gimata komu un' grupon tautau guine giya O'Perlas iya Pasifiku. Gi hilu antau na areglu 'nai siña ta establese inafamauleg finenina giya hita mismu. Hombre i pastores 'nai maliñgu un' kinilu ma-espiha estake masoda ya mananalu tatte gi halum katdumi gi fina pastahe.

■ ■ ■

Ha soda un' amiguha na taya' esta natibun Marianas masedi humalom gi lañget deste 2003. Ha faisen si San Pedro haf' motibu na nuebu i areglu. Ineppi: "Hu lagnos siete sientos na katta solu para iya Marianas siñko años malofan. Yangin ti un' resibe sobrimu pues ti saunau hau humalum pot sien años".

John S. DelRosario is the Secretary of the Department of Public Lands.

Letter to the Editor

A different life

It's been seven months since the time I bade goodbye to the place I considered home for almost 12 years. Back then and up to today, a big part of me has stopped living. I cannot describe the many sleepless nights I had trying to convince myself that leaving Saipan was the right thing to do. How was it wrong to think of my children's future first? But I still wish I didn't have to leave and for the most of it, I didn't have much time to say goodbye. Up to the day my daughter and I were at the airport on our way to Manila, I was silently crying and wishing for the impossible which is for me to come back before June 2009. I know now that it is in fact impossible to return even in November.

As I write this today, there's so much I want to share, now looking

from outside but very much still part of the inside. For example, I want my fellow CNMI guest workers to realize that there could be a better life outside of Saipan, Tinian, or Rota. I can testify to that. A friend told me once before, if you are already thinking of doing something that could benefit you and your family, just close your eyes and jump. I'm glad I did, otherwise I'd still be stuck fighting for a cause with only my ego left and nothing else.

Life here in Laos is totally different. The lifestyle is very simple. There's no Tony Roma's or Taco Bell or even a decent gym. I no longer fight for improved immigration status but who knows if the CNMI guest workers will be given one anyway? In return, because the guest workers here get free housing, free meals, free transportation, etc., we can save. Eyes are very limiting. We should not limit ourselves to what the eyes can see. God sees more and it's always better to trust Him who

sees infinity.

I once dreamed of living in America along with my children. Now it's not my dream anymore. Now I dream that with the money I will save from working here, I can build a small house, a small business and retire in my own country in peace. Isn't that what we all aspire and hope for? Let's not be afraid to follow where they moved the cheese for almost always, there's a chance it is better than where it is at the present.

I am with you in prayers that what we are all hoping for is still possible. God bless the guest workers of the CNMI! God bless Tina Sablan, Kiliti Sablan and Wendy Doromal for their consistent courage to advocate for the guest workers.

Irene N. Tantiado

Savannahet, Laos PDR

WHAT

From Page 10

The other day I jokingly mentioned to one lawmaker that the reason so many are running for office is that they like the salary with its over \$100,000 slush fund and other amenities. He laughed and nodded.

I hope we do not have any with that kind of reasoning. In the past

we have had too many elected officials who knew nothing about government and cared to learn little. They just served their time and received their money.

Since it is mid-August we still have time to question and evaluate who we want. You candidates are the key to prosperity. Our intelligent vote can and must make all the difference in the world. The road to happiness and prosperity begins with the "I". Add all the "I"s up and we have success.






Begin the questioning now! Put all the candidates through tests. Ask each one: "What have you been doing or done in the past to help the CNMI? Why now do you suddenly want to help?" If they have done little, we can expect little after they take office. It will be a bad mistake to elect such people. We will have missed a chance to improve the CNMI.

When we change our attitude, we change the world. You carry the future of the CNMI by voting for the right candidates.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
				
Partly cloudy with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. East winds around 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. East winds around 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.
▲89° ▼77°	▲89° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Mostly Sunny	▲86 ▼77
Palau	Sunny	▲87 ▼77
Yap	Sunny	▲88 ▼77
Chuuk	Sunny	▲87 ▼78
Pohnpei	Sunny	▲88 ▼73
Kosrae	Sunny	▲88 ▼76
Majuro	Sunny	▲87 ▼77

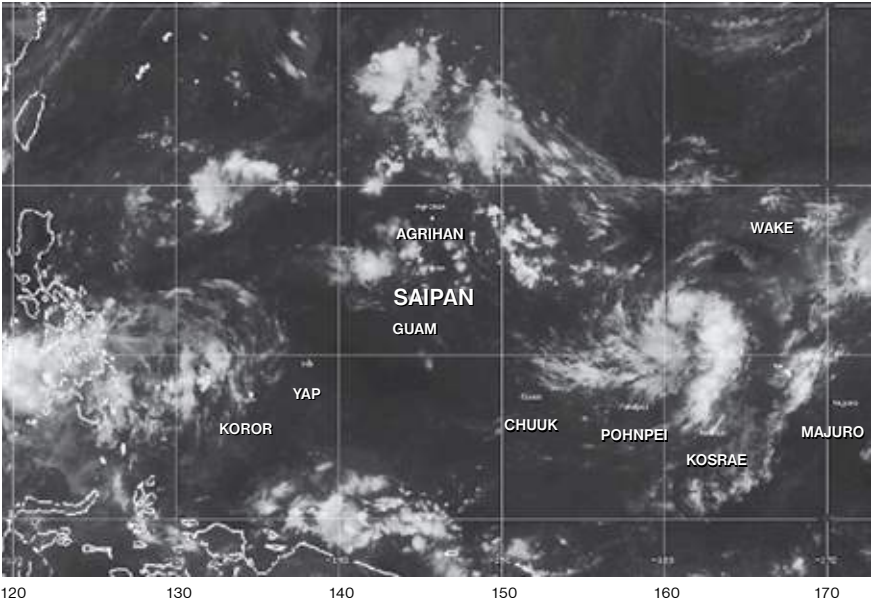
Around The Globe

Auckland	Mostly Sunny	▲61 ▼48
Beijing	Sunny	▲93 ▼73
Hong Kong	Cloudy	▲91 ▼80
Honolulu	Mostly Cloudy	▲85 ▼77
London	Cloudy	▲75 ▼57
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲80 ▼62
Manila	Showers	▲88 ▼77
Melbourne	Rain	▲58 ▼52
Miami	Partly Sunny	▲89 ▼79
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲90 ▼72
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	▲86 ▼73
Paris	Mostly Sunny	▲75 ▼57
Pusan	Showers	▲82 ▼71
Rome	Sunny	▲90 ▼68
Salem	Mostly Sunny	▲91 ▼56
San Francisco	Cloudy	▲75 ▼57
Seoul	Cloudy	▲91 ▼66
Tokyo	Cloudy	▲78 ▼74
Washington, DC	Partly Sunny	▲91 ▼72

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
2:59 AM Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
10:55 AM Today	Low Tide:	0.4 Feet
6:26 PM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
11:14 PM Today	Low Tide:	1.4 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, SUNDAY, AUGUST 16, 2009
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A monsoon trough extends eastward from 10N151E through a developing circulation northeast of Pohnpei near 11N162E then northeast to Tropical Storm Maka located at 16N173E. A curved band of showers east of the disturbance is located within 50 miles of a line from 13N161E to 11N164E to 7N162E. Showers and thunderstorms are located within 80 miles of the center of Maka and northeastward of the center within 150 miles of a line from 16N174E to 19N179E. Refer to Tropical Cyclone Public Advisory TCPQ3 issued under WMO header WTPQ33 PGUM for further information about Tropical Storm Maka. Diffluent wind flow west of an upper low centered near 22N161E is enhancing convective activity well north of the Marianas from 20N to 25N between 142E and 150E. Convergence associated with a weak disturbance near 20N134E is producing scattered showers from 19N to 21N between 131E and 136E.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:03 AM	6:39 PM
Tuesday	6:03 AM	6:39 PM
Wednesday	6:03 AM	6:38 PM
Thursday	6:03 AM	6:38 PM
Friday	6:03 AM	6:37 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	2:15 AM	3:47 PM
Tuesday	3:21 AM	4:44 PM
Wednesday	4:27 AM	5:36 PM
Thursday	5:31 AM	6:24 PM
Friday	6:32 AM	7:09 PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

- PICTURES**
 - ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
 - BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
 - BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
 - SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
 - TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.
- ANNOUNCEMENTS**
 - COMMUNITY BRIEFS

- Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

- For pictures:**
 - Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
 - Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
 - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
 - Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
 - For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.
- For announcements:**
 - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

- the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
- To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 21, 2009

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP) C09597 11:50am 12:25pm 1, 7	ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN C09598 3:15am 3:50am 5, 6 C09312 1:20pm 1:55pm 6
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM C09597 12:50pm 1:20pm 1, 7	GUAM-ROTA (ROP) C09598 2:10am 2:40am 5, 6 C09312 12:10pm 12:40pm 6
SAIPAN-GUAM C09317 4:20am 5:10am Daily C09313 8:30am 9:20am Daily C09597 11:50am 1:20pm 1, 7 via ROP C09601 12:30pm 1:20pm 4, 5 C09603 3:30pm 4:20pm Daily C09605 6:30pm 7:20pm Daily C09599 9:30pm 10:20pm Daily	GUAM-SAIPAN C09598 2:10am 3:50am 5, 6 via ROP C09316 2:20am 3:10am 1, 2, 3, 4, 7 C09596 7:00am 7:50am Daily C09600 10:20am 11:10am 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 C09312 12:10pm 1:55pm 6 via ROP C09602 2:00pm 2:50pm 1, 4, 5, 7 C09604 5:00pm 5:50pm Daily C09606 8:00pm 8:50pm Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT) C0941 5:30am 8:05am Daily NW99 6:05am 8:40am Daily NW78 9:00am 2:05pm Daily via NGO NW75 3:50pm 6:25pm Daily C0943 5:25pm 8:00pm Daily	NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN C0942 9:25am 1:55pm Daily NW76 10:00am 2:35pm Daily NW77 6:35pm 1:40am+1 Daily via NGO NW100 8:45pm 1:20am+1 Daily C0944 9:00pm 1:30am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX) OZ119 4:00am 6:40am 1, 3, 4, 6	OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN OZ120 9:55pm 2:20am+1 2, 3, 5, 7
SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO) NW78 9:00am 11:40am Daily	NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN NW77 9:10pm 1:40am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS) OZ608 3:20am 6:50am 1, 4, 5, 7	BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN OZ607 9:00pm 2:20am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN) OZ604 2:20am 6:00am 1 OZ604 2:50am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 OZ119 4:00am 11:20am 1, 3, 4, 6 via KIX OZ606 3:30pm 7:00pm 2, 4, 6, 7	SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN OZ605 9:00am 2:30pm 2, 4, 6, 7 OZ120 7:10pm 2:20am+1 2, 3, 5, 7 via KIX OZ603 7:40pm 1:10am+1 7 OZ603 8:10pm 1:40am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG) FM844 2:50am 5:40am 2, 6	SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN FM843 7:15pm 1:50am+1 1, 5
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN) CZ3008 3:30am 6:40am 2, 6	GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN CZ3007 7:30pm 2:40am+1 1, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA OZ604/701 2:20am 11:25am 1 via ICN OZ604/703 2:50am 11:25am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN C09603/933 3:30pm 8:40pm Daily via GUM C09599/PR11 9:30pm 7:45am+1 1, 2, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	MANILA-SAIPAN OZ702/603 12:45pm 1:10am+1 7 via ICN OZ702/603 12:45pm 1:40am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN PR110/C09596 10:00pm 7:50am+1 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM C0934/9596 10:55pm 7:50am+1 Daily via GUM OZ704/605 11:50pm 2:30pm+1 2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
SAIPAN-HONG KONG OZ604/721 2:20am 11:45am 1 via ICN OZ604/721 2:50am 11:45am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	HONG KONG-SAIPAN OZ724/605 12:30am 2:30pm 2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN OZ722/603 1:15pm 1:10am+1 7 via ICN OZ722/603 1:15pm 1:40am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily
Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123*	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125*	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Youth corps rises from ashes of closed donation center

By **TANIA MENDIOLA**
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

This past week has been a busy one for a few volunteers on Tinian. With the closing down of Tinian's first and last donation center, volunteers of all ages forced a smile on their face to pack items of all kinds. There were books that were donated from around the world; also clothes for newborn babies to children and adults of different sizes.

When maia had just started, my children, who were at the time 9 and 6 years old, would run up and down the stairs to get a book to read. As soon as they were done, they would get more. Until last week they would ask me, "Mommy can you take us to maia?" You couldn't imagine how it felt to let my children know that maia's free books and donation center is closed permanently. Students of different ages

would walk after school to her apartment to read, use her computer for projects, or to relax in her cool and quiet apartment.

After many of the donations were packed, some of these children took part in doing something good: They volunteered to go house to house to give books and toys to the people and children of Tinian. Included were maias' special going-away gift of a brand new coloring book and



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Members of the Helping-Hands Youth Corps pose for a group picture. Center, with sign, Destiny Pandey, Peter Untalan, Devyani Pandey, and Noreena Dafrow. From left, Norama Carayaoan, Brian Taitingfong, Jun, Juleesha Borja, Tanner Aldan, Raymond Borja, Ken Untalan, Malena Hofschneider, Jessica Mundo, Venny Untalan, Sasha Pangelinan, and Tania Mendiola



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The packed boxes of books, clothing, and toys are stacked in front of the closed down maia's Helping Hands Donation Center.

crayons. With tears in her eyes she handed the box to me and asked to give them to the children as an early Christmas present, since she wouldn't be able to hold her fourth annual Christmas-Give-Away.

The feeling of giving was extraordinary. Children were running to our cars choosing their books. The smiles on their faces were beautiful, as they held their stuffed animal and gift. It really was an early Christmas. One of our volunteers handed out our little card, which stated:

maia's Helping Hands Donation Center

had to close, due to no official support but some

of Tinian's terrific kids have formed the

"Helping-Hands Youth Corps"

This is maia's going away gift and their first community-aid project.

Maia has been seeking help from our leaders to be able to keep this center going. Yet there has been no improvement. She has already had offers from

people in the Philippines and a mayor in Guam who would like her services there. Because of the many children on Tinian she hesitates to leave but she will have no place to stay. We both have no power or a seat anywhere politically but we do have a heart.

For the time being while maia begins to uproot to another country or island with tears in her eyes, the Helping Hands Youth Corps will continue to distribute all items to the rest of the people of Tinian.

Tuvalu reports first case of swine flu

MELBOURNE, Australia (Radio Australia/PIR)—Tuvalu has now recorded its first cases of the H1N1 virus, also known as swine flu.

Pacnews reports that a nationwide announcement was made on Radio Tuvalu to alert the nation of the first recorded case which is believed to have been from people who have traveled overseas recently.

Assistant Health Secretary,

Dr. Stephen Homasi says the cases were confirmed after specimens were sent to a laboratory in Fiji.

Five of the affected Tuvaluans are children. They have been advised to stay at home until they have fully recovered

Tuvalu's health department has a stockpile of drugs for treatment of people affected by swine flu.

Saipan student graduates from Dartmouth

HANOVER, NH—Faye Hwa-Young Yu, from Saipan, a member of the class of 2009, graduated cum laude from Dartmouth College, one of more than 1,000

students receiving bachelor of arts degree at the Spring 2009 Commencement exercises.

Yu is the daughter of Youngsik R Yu and Seung-Hee C Yu. Yu

majoring in Chemistry and minored in Engineering Sciences.

Dartmouth, the ninth oldest college in the nation, was founded in 1769. Noted as a highly com-

petitive college, Dartmouth has to a total enrollment of 4,200 undergraduates and over 1,000 graduate students in engineering business, and medicine. (PR)

Gas stations forced to drop prices on Majuro

HONOLULU (Pacific Islands Report)—Gas prices fell 50 cents this week on Majuro—to US\$4.90 a gallon—after a new company entered the market with lower prices, the *Marshall Islands Journal* reports.

Pacific International Inc. re-

portedly entered the market last week after saying the existing four retailers were price fixing to keep profits above fluctuating oil prices.

Prices at Riwut, SEPS, Aces One Stop and RRE Gas stations had ranged from \$5.15 to \$5.40

per gallon before Pacific International opened for business, the *Journal* reports. All have since dropped their prices to match the newcomer.

Mobil is currently the only supplier of gas on Majuro, and Mobil has not reduced its sell-

ing price in recent weeks.

According to the *Journal*, Mobil is supplying fuel to Majuro stations at around \$4 per gallon, gas in America is retailing at the pump at less than \$2.40 per gallon, meaning the wholesale price is under \$2 per gallon.

PACIFIC BRIEFS

Taylor named US ambassador to Melanesia

HONIARA, Solomon Islands (Solomon Star/PIR)—The United States Senate has approved the appointment of Teddy Taylor as the new Ambassador to the three Melanesian countries of Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea and Vanuatu. Taylor replaces Leslie Rowe whose term expires at the end of July. Acting Ambassador and Charge de' Affairs Paul Berg confirmed this to *Solomon Star* yesterday. He said Taylor will take up the new post in September. And he is expected to make his first official visit to Solomon Islands around that time, he adds. Berg said the Senate confirmed the appointment on Friday after it was endorsed early last month. Taylor is expected to hold the position for a two years term.

Samoa welcomes new Egypt ambassador

APIA, Samoa (Samoa Observer/PIR)—The longstanding relationship between Samoa and Egypt was further strengthened yesterday. This happened when the new Ambassador of the Arab Republic of Egypt to Samoa, Omar Metwally Mohammed Metwally, pre-

sented his Letters of Credence to the Head of State, His Highness Tui Atua Tupua Tamasese Efi. The credentials ceremony took place yesterday morning at the Head of State's residence at Tuafu. Metwally also met with Prime Minister, Tuilaepa Sa'ilele Malielegaoi. Ambassador Metwally has a Bachelor of Science Degree in Commerce from Cairo University in Egypt. He has been previously posted to the Embassies of the Arab Republic of Egypt in Kinshasa, London and Tunisia.

Ransomed sailor glad to return to Fiji

SUVA, Fiji (Fiji Times/PIR)—An overjoyed Wayne Suliana arrived home last night and vowed never to return to the seas off Somalia ever again. Held hostage for four months by heavily-armed pirates, Suliana said he was glad to be alive as his life was threatened on many occasions. He said he and 11 other Tuvaluans, who work as crew on the seized German vessel, MV *Hansa Stavanger*, had given up hope of ever seeing their families again. "It was horrible. We could not believe them anymore because several promises of release had been made during the course of our detainment," he said.

"I have been a seaman for nine years and I love my work. I will go back to sea but never again to the Gulf of Aden. I will now choose where I go. I am so happy to be home. I felt I was in Fiji the moment I stepped on to the plane. It was Air Pacific and all the stewards were Fijian—I felt I was home."

Two samoa villages bar left-side drivers

APIA, Samoa (Samoa Observer/PIR)—Rural Samoans have engineered a dangerous new solution to a government plan to switch to driving on the left: don't do it. Samoa is just three weeks away from a monumental road rule change but the Government is facing a growing backlash from Samoans angry about the switch to the left side of the road. The residents of at least two small villages have decided not to allow any cars through their town unless they are driving on the right as they do now, say the action group People Against Switching Sides. Which villages, PASS did not say. "Any car that comes through the village will have to drive on the other side of the road or not be allowed through," PASS member Papali'i Viopapa Annandale said.

Poor airstrips possible factor in PNG crash

Rural airstrips have no markers, beacons

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (RNZI/PIR)—A lack of investment in rural airstrips in Papua New Guinea may have been a factor in the crash which killed 13 people on Tuesday.

Nine Australians were among those killed when the Airlines PNG charter flight crashed in the Owen Stanley Ranges.

Warren Bartlett, the former

executive officer of the Kokoda Track Authority, says the Civil Aviation Authority should be doing more to maintain rural airstrips like Kokoda, which currently have no cone markers or radio navigation beacons.

He says that could have contributed to the accident which reportedly occurred after the Twin Otter aircraft, circled over-

head and headed back.

"Papua New Guinea Civil Aviation Authority needs a kick up the backside and tell them to get their act together and sort all these rural airstrips out. They completely neglect the rural airstrips, if they are not up to standard they should be closed down. Kokoda is satisfactory provided the grass is cut and provided we

get some cone markers in there to make it easier for the aircraft to be able to identify it, if it is

slightly misty."

Warren Bartlett says the Civil Aviation Authority and provin-

cial and national governments all deny the rural airstrips are their responsibility.

Guam, 15 states get \$15M-plus renewable energy loans, grants

HILO, Hawaii—Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced Friday that 365 recipients—including Guam—have been selected to receive more than \$15 million in loans and grants to install renewable energy systems and make energy efficiency improvements.

"It is imperative that we secure more self-sufficient energy resources for our country, and these grants will help enable the long-term sustainability that the Obama Administration is committed to," Vilsack said. "This funding will also help farmers and rural businesses become more efficient and competitive."

Melissa Pang Ching, Acting State Director for the Hawaii/Western Pacific Area said: "We

were especially pleased to learn of the Hagen, Inc.; \$20,000 grant for Guam. This is the first ever Rural Energy for America Grant application that has been selected for funding in Guam."

The funds will be used to help offset the cost of a 20Kw solar photovoltaic system that will be mounted on the roof of Hagen's warehouse. The system should provide 100 percent of the businesses annual electric needs, including the projected increase of an expansion of the current office space.

Pang Ching stated: "We hope this will be a good example of the types of projects that USDA Rural Development can help fund for Guam and are encouraging rural small businesses and farmers and

ranchers to start developing their applications for FY 2010."

The loans and grants are authorized under the Rural Energy for America Program, which was established in the 2008 Farm Bill and is administered by USDA Rural Development. The funds are not part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

"It is imperative that we secure more self-sufficient energy resources for our country, and these grants will help enable the long-term sustainability that the Obama Administration is committed to," Vilsack said. "This funding will also help farmers and rural businesses become more efficient and competitive."

Additional information on the Rural Energy for America Program may be found at www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs/busp/bprogs.htm. (USDA)

ON THE NET

www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs/busp/bprogs.htm

Deadlines nearing for USDA's Rural Business Enterprise Grant Program

HILO, Hawaii—The USDA Rural Development is accepting applications for a second round of funding under the provisions of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 for the Rural Business Enterprise Grant program. The primary objective of the program is to improve the economic conditions of rural areas. The USDA Rural Development will administer grant awards made under the RBEG program and 7 U.S.C. 1932(c) (2) for fiscal years 2009 and 2010.

Eligibility for the RBEG funds are public bodies and private nonprofit organizations, such as states, counties, and cit-

ies. Rural area for this program is defined as a city, town, or unincorporated area that has a population of 50,000 inhabitants or less, other than an urbanized area immediately adjacent to a city, town, or unincorporated area that has a population in excess of 50,000 inhabitants. Applications will only be accepted from eligible entities.

The Rural Development State Office will accept applications on or before Aug. 24, 2009, and Sept. 23, 2009.

The program is administered on behalf of Rural Business-Cooperative Service and assistance provided to rural areas under this program may include on-

site technical assistance to local and regional governments, public transit agencies, and related non-profit and for-profit organizations in rural areas; the development of training materials; and the provision of necessary training assistance to local officials and agencies in rural areas.

USDA Rural Development's mission is to increase economic opportunity and improve the quality of life in rural communities.

Further information on rural programs is available at a local USDA Rural Development Office or by visiting USDA's web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>. (USDA)

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

CREAM encourages voter registration, participation

The Coalition for Recognition, Equality and Advancement of American Ethnic Minorities, CREAM, is calling all U.S. citizens of ethnic decent—Filipinos, Chinese, Koreans, Bangladeshis, Japanese and other nationalities—to register with the CNMI Election Commission to exercise their right to vote and voice their choice through the ballot in the coming Nov. 7 general elections.

CREAM is encouraging young voter, especially first-time voters who will turn 18 year old on Election Day, to register. All those who failed to vote in 2005 and 2007 are also urged and encouraged to register with the Election Commission on Capital Hill from Monday to Friday, 7:30am to 4:30pm and at PriceCostco on Saturday, from 9am to 1pm.

Last day to register for the November 2009 General Election is Sept. 18, 2009. Please register and let us not waste our right to vote. Bring a copy of your birth certificate and passport for verification and registration.

Contact any of the following telephone numbers to assist you: 483-3138, 484-0727, 285-9374, 287-4424 and 287-4474 for assistance.

Kagman High School notice

Kagman High School will conduct an orientation for 9th graders (freshmen) on Thursday, Aug. 27, 2009, from 9:30am to 11:30am. For 10th graders (sophomores), it will be from 1pm to 3pm at the Kagman High School cafeteria. For 11th graders (juniors) and 12th graders (seniors), orientation will be on Friday, Aug. 28, 2009, from 9:30am to 11:30am. For more information, call 237-3840 or 237-3832; fax 664-3788. (PR)

Assistive technology seminars on Tinian

The CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities' Assistive Technology Program, Family Hope Center/FS 360 Project will be providing the following trainings for families of children with developmental disabilities and service providers on Tinian

- Assistive Technology on Legislation & Transition Into The Community, facilitated by Kelly Roberts, Ph.D.

- Assistive Technology for LD, facilitated by Kiriko Takahashi, M.A.

- Assistive Technology Demonstration & Device showcase, facilitated by Jerry McVicar.

The trainings will be held at the Fleming's Restaurant on Thursday, Aug. 20, 2009, from 8am to 4pm.

For registration and information, contact Lillian Ada at 664-7000/1, Christie Sablan at 664-7003, or CDD at 664-7000/5. Special accommodation should be arranged with CDD five

days before the event. (PR)

Meeting of the Autism Society of the CNMI

The Autism Society of the CNMI will be holding its monthly meeting on Aug. 22, 2009, at 10am at the NMPASI Conference Room. Information regarding the group and future meetings will be available at this meeting. All families and friends of individuals with autism and autism related spectrum disorders are invited to attend.

For additional information, call John at 234-8803/4 or Larrisa at 322-3761 or send an email to as_cnmi@yahoo.com. (PR)

MHS reminder for freshmen

Incoming freshmen of the Marianas High School are being reminded to turn in their "School Entrance Health Certificate" (blue health immunization certificate) to the MHS Registrar's Office between 8am-4pm, Mondays-Fridays. For questions and concerns, call 237-3206. (PR)

SVES sets Open House, parent orientation

The San Vicente Elementary School is inviting all parents to its upcoming Open House (Parent Orientation) on Friday, Sept. 4, from 9am to 12pm. Parents will have the opportunity to meet their child's teacher and receive the requested supply list for the coming school year. Orientations will be held by grade level in the following classrooms:

- Kindergarten I-24
- 1st Grade K-26
- 2nd Grade E-14
- 3rd Grade K-31
- 4th Grade B-7
- 5th Grade A-2
- 6th Grade A-9

SSHS reminders to incoming students

All students that have been evaluated and graduated from junior high are entered into the system but they are still required to *register*. You are not officially enrolled if your parents/legal guardians did not submit a registration form. Forms can be picked up from the Counseling Office and submitted ASAP for your child to be enrolled in SSHS.

All returning students that attended last year must return all textbooks and settle all obligations with the school before picking up one's class schedule. You will not be permitted to remain on campus.

Class schedules are to be picked up at the Counseling Office as follows:

- Seniors (12th Grade) Aug. 20 8am-11am 1pm-3:30pm
- Juniors (11th Grade) Aug. 21 8am-11am 1pm-3:30pm
- Sophomores (10th Grade) Aug. 22 8am-11am 1pm-3:30pm

9th Grade student orientation and class schedule pick up will be held on two different dates to accommodate parents/guardian work schedules. Please attend only one session (with parents or legal guardians):

- Aug. 25 9am-12pm
- Aug. 26 1pm-4pm

All transfer and new students coming from private or public school in grades 10th, 11th and 12th are required to attend the orientation on Aug. 27, from 9am to 12pm with their parents or legal guardians. No students will be allowed without a parent or guardian in attendance.

If you have any questions about registration or orientation, call 664-4000 or 237-3713. (PR)



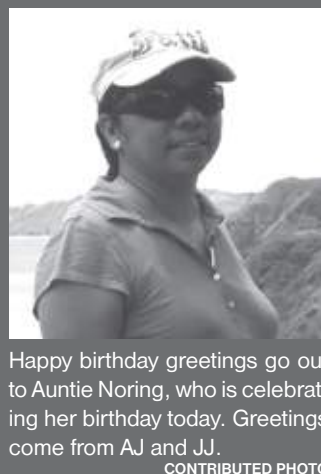
BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy birthday to our loving Nora Baza, third from left, shown here with friends, who is celebrating her birthday today, Aug. 17! Hope you have a blast on your special day! We love you always! Greetings come from your kids and your loving goddaughter Lesley!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Belated happy birthday greetings to Gabby Cruz, who celebrated his 3rd birthday on Aug. 15, 2009. We love you so much! Greetings come from Mommy and Daddy.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Happy birthday greetings go out to Auntie Noring, who is celebrating her birthday today. Greetings come from AJ and JJ.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Business

Book: Madoff victim tells of secret 20-year affair

NEW YORK (AP)—A new book says that an investor who claims she was devastated by Bernard Madoff's multibillion-dollar Ponzi scheme had a two-decade affair with the disgraced financier.

The memoir, "Madoff's Other Secret: Love, Money, Bernie, and Me," was written by Sheryl Weinstein, whose relationship with Madoff spanned more than 20 years while both were married, said John Murphy, a spokesman for publisher St. Martin's Press. It goes on sale Aug. 25.

Madoff, 71, is serving 150 years in prison for defrauding investors. Weinstein says she met him at a business meeting when she was chief financial officer for the charitable women's organization Hadassah, where she had a role in investment decisions.

Madoff attorney Ira Sorkin said he hopes the author "was more discreet with her investment obligations than she has allegedly been with her sex life."

An attorney for Madoff's wife, Ruth Madoff, said his client did not know about the "alleged affair." The attorney, Peter Chavkin, said the allegations were a powerful reminder to those who claim Ruth Madoff knew about her husband's massive Ponzi scheme "that there are some things that some spouses—however close they are—do not share with each other."

At Bernard Madoff's June sentencing, Weinstein was among investors to urge a long prison sentence for the financier, who admitted ripping off thousands of investors for billions of dollars for at least two decades. She said she viewed meeting him 21

years ago "as perhaps the unluckiest day of my life."

Weinstein said her investment losses had forced her to sell her Manhattan home and devastated her, her husband of

37 years, her son, her parents, her in-laws and everyone who depended on them. She called Madoff "that terror, that monster, that horror, that beast ... an equal-opportunity destroyer."

JetBlue and Southwest face off



In this July 19, 2005 file photo, a JetBlue Airbus flies over a pair of Southwest Airlines' jets from Bob Hope Airport in Burbank, Calif., bound for New York's JFK airport.

NEW YORK (AP)—The cool kids of the airline industry are giving big-city travelers more opportunities to show who they like more.

For years, JetBlue and Southwest catered to customers in the same way—with cheap fares and good customer service—but avoided much head-to-head competition in major markets. These days, they are trying to distinguish themselves as they ramp-up competition in places like New York, Washington, Baltimore—and starting this weekend, Boston.

Fliers stand to benefit as these airlines expand in the Northeast. This rivalry not only pits one popular low-cost carrier against another; it puts further pressure on other airlines to stay competitive with them.

It also means JetBlue and Southwest must find ways to differentiate themselves. South-

west is touting its fewer baggage fees and more extensive nationwide presence, while JetBlue is highlighting its live TV service and its own comprehensive route system.

Just over a month after Southwest began flying out of New York's LaGuardia—eight miles from JetBlue's base at John F. Kennedy International—Southwest begins service on Sunday from Boston's Logan International Airport. In September, Southwest starts service between Boston and Baltimore.

A few years back, their flights mostly crossed paths in places like Burbank, Calif., and Orlando, Fla.

The move to New York was a game-changer for Southwest. Formerly it concentrated on smaller, less-congested airports, where it could count on quick turnarounds, a key to its low-cost model.

Florida, Georgia, Nevada and Texas will reopen at the normal times starting on Saturday as offices of Winston-Salem, N.C.-based BB&T. The FDIC has approved the sale of Colonial's \$20 billion in deposits and about \$22 billion of its assets to BB&T Corp. Regulators also closed four other banks: Community Bank of Arizona, based in Phoenix; Union Bank, based in Gilbert, Ariz.; Community Bank of Nevada, based in Las Vegas; and Dwelling House Savings and Loan Association, located in Pittsburgh.

Steel workers in China protest plant purchase

BEIJING (AP)—Hundreds of steel workers in central China trapped a government official in their factory's office compound for four days, angry at the official's role in the state-run plant's privatization, the local government said Saturday. A local official denied a report in state-run media that armed police were dispatched to clear out the workers, saying they left voluntarily after the government persuaded them to go. As many as 400 workers for the Linzhou Steel Corporation and their relatives dispersed early Saturday after surrounding the company's offices since Wednesday, the Linzhou city government said in a notice on its Web site. Anyang city oversees Linzhou city.

Nation

Wildfires scorch parched Calif.

DAVENPORT, Calif.

(AP)—California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger urged residents to heed mandatory evacuation orders Saturday as 6,800 firefighters battled to control nearly a dozen blazes across the parched state.

Schwarzenegger met with firefighters at the Lockheed Fire in the Santa Cruz Mountains, a day after the governor returned to the state from attending the funeral of his mother-in-law, Eunice Shriver.

The Lockheed Fire has blackened close to 8 square miles of remote wilderness since Wednesday and prompted mandatory evacuations of the mountain communities of Swanton and Bonny Doon, which have about 2,400 residents and several wineries.

"These fires will be different than most of the fires because of the terrain," Schwarzenegger said. "It's very hard to get equipment in there and the resources in there. That's why you see a lot of helicopters and fixed winged aircraft being used."

The fire spread slightly



Firefighters battle a wildfire as it threatens to jump a road in unincorporated Santa Cruz County, Calif., on Friday, Aug. 14, 2009.

overnight but crews gained some ground when the winds died down, containing nearly 30 percent of the fire, said CalFire spokeswoman Julie Hutchinson.

But an offshore wind was expected to blow into the area later Saturday, bringing hotter temperatures, dropping the humidity and drying out the trees and brush.

"If we get those winds, those high temperatures and low humidity, it could definitely cause a much more rapid fire and a lot more fire spread," Hutchinson said.

Schwarzenegger said the Lockheed Fire was one of 11 burning in the state. Other blazes have forced evacuations and knocked out power, and smoke and ash from the growing wildfire in Santa Barbara County whirled into the Los Angeles area, prompting an unusual weather forecast of "scattered smoke."

Lt. Gov. John Garamendi declared a state of emergency Friday for Santa Cruz County.

Schwarzenegger said 25 firefighters had been injured in various blazes, but the extent of their injuries wasn't immediately known.

"We pray that they heal as quickly as possible," Schwarzenegger said.

The Lockheed Fire blaze started Wednesday about 10 miles north of Santa Cruz. A change in winds shifted the fire away from Bonny Doon but closer to Swanton, CalFire spokesman Daniel Berlant said.

Obama invokes grandma's death in health debate

GRAND JUNCTION, Colo.

(AP)—Now, it's personal. President Barack Obama invoked his own anguish over the death of a loved one as he challenged the debunked notion that Democratic efforts to overhaul the nation's health care would include "death panels."

"I just lost my grandmother last year. I know what it's like to watch somebody you love, who's aging, deteriorate and have to struggle with that,"

an impassioned Obama told a crowd as he spoke of Madelyn Payne Dunham. He took issue with "the notion that somehow I ran for public office or members of Congress are in this so they can go around pulling the plug on grandma."

"When you start making arguments like that, that's simply dishonest—especially when I hear the arguments coming from members of Congress in the other party who, turns out,

sponsored similar provisions," Obama said.

In a debate in which he often sounds professor-like, Obama spoke with a rare bit of emotion that seemed to counter that of vocal health care opponents as he referenced the beloved grandmother who helped raise him and who he called "Toot." She died of cancer at age 86 on Nov. 2, two days before he won election to become the nation's first African-American president.

ACROSS THE NATION

Tropical storm watches issued as Ana races west

MIAMI (AP)—Tropical storm watches were issued Saturday for the U.S. and British Virgin Islands and other parts of the Leeward Islands as Ana raced west through the Atlantic. Tropical Storm Bill, the second storm of the Atlantic season, formed farther east and forecasters said they expect it to become a hurricane over the next several days. The National Hurricane Center said Saturday night that Ana had maximum sustained winds near 40 mph and was moving west near 17 mph. It was about 710 miles east-southeast of the Leeward Islands and was not expected to strengthen in the next 24 hours.

Gay marriage fight, 'kiss-ins' smack Mormon image

SALT LAKE CITY (AP)—The Mormon church's vigorous, well-heeled support for Proposition 8, which banned gay marriage in California last year, has turned the Utah-based faith into a lightning rod for gay rights activism, including a nationwide "kiss-in" Saturday. The event comes after gay couples here and in San

Antonio and El Paso, Texas, were arrested, cited for trespassing or harassed by police for publicly kissing. In Utah, the July 9 trespassing incident occurred after a couple were observed by security guards on a downtown park-like plaza owned by the 13 million-member Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The court case was dismissed, but the kiss sparked a community backlash and criticism of the church.

Family 'ecstatic' after word Mo. man will be freed

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—Family members of a Missouri man imprisoned in Myanmar for swimming to the home of Nobel laureate Aung San Suu Kyi waited Saturday for his return to the United States, and said they were thrilled that his ordeal appeared to be over. U.S. Sen. Jim Webb's office said Saturday morning that he had won the release of John Yettaw, 53, who was convicted and sentenced to seven years of hard labor for the May swim. Suu Kyi, a pro-democracy leader, has been detained at her home for several years, and is not allowed to have unannounced visitors. Yettaw's visit violated that term of her house arrest.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Qatar acquire 17 pct. Porsche stake

DOHA, Qatar (AP)—Qatar Holding has announced it will acquire a 17 percent stake in Volkswagen AG, which is merging with Porsche, in a deal that will exceed \$10 billion. This comes after the Porsche and Piech families said it will sell a 10 percent stake of their shares to the Gulf company. In a statement released late Friday, Qatar Holding said it will now be the third largest shareholder in VW, after Porsche and Lower Saxony. The purchase follows the UAE's Aabar Investment acquisition in March of a 10 percent stake of Daimler AG, famed for its Mercedes-Benz brand, indicating continuing Gulf interest in the European automotive sector despite the economic downturn. The statement says Porsche will also establish research facilities in Doha as part of the deal.

Colonial BancGroup shut down by federal officials

WASHINGTON (AP)—Real estate lender Colonial BancGroup Inc. has been shut down by federal officials in the biggest U.S. bank failure this year. The Federal Deposit Insurance Corp., which was appointed receiver of the Montgomery, Ala.-based Colonial and its about \$25 billion in assets, said the failed bank's 346 branches in Alabama,

Asia

Taiwan awaits foreign aid for typhoon relief

SHIAO LIN, Taiwan (AP)—Taiwan awaited desperately needed aid from the United States, China and other countries Sunday as villagers mourned the hundreds who were killed in the worst storm to strike the island in 50 years.

Taiwan's Foreign Ministry said giant helicopters from the U.S. that can carry cranes and backhoes were expected to arrive in a few days to help rescue those that might still be trapped, and to help rebuild

roads in villages devastated when Typhoon Morakot hit a week ago. The U.S. has also agreed to send other relief materials, it said in a statement, without elaborating.

Resettlement of the estimated 7,000 people whose homes were destroyed by mudslides and flooding could speed up after the first batch of prefabricated homes promised by rival China arrive Monday, the island's disaster relief center said.

Displaced people have been

staying at temporary shelters or with relatives.

More than 59 countries have offered aid to Taiwan, including Israel, Australia and Singapore, the Foreign Ministry said. Pope Benedict XVI also donated \$50,000.

Taiwanese President Ma Ying-jeou put the overall death toll on Friday at about 500, making it the island's deadliest weather disaster since 1959 when more than 600 perished in a typhoon.

Thai elephant hurt by mine gets artificial leg

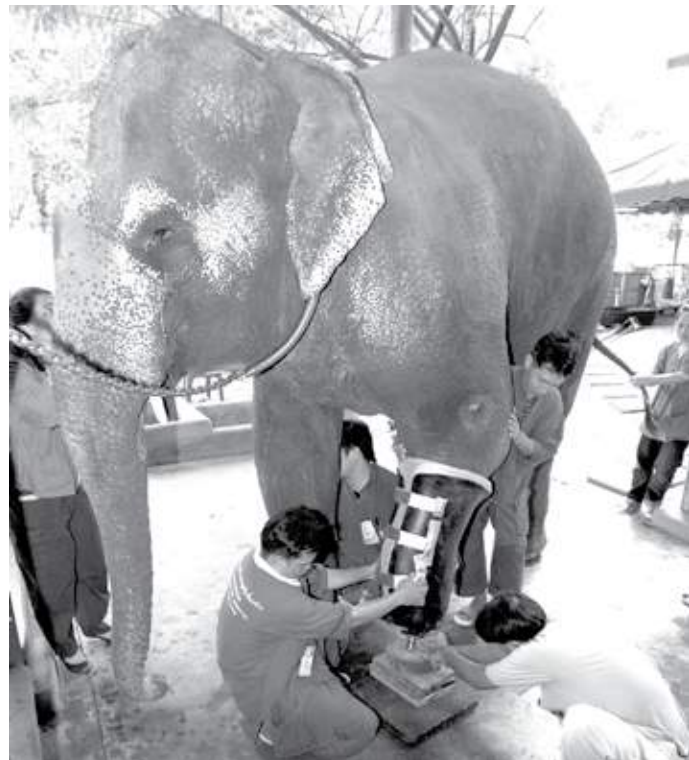
LAMPANG, Thailand (AP)—Motola, a female elephant who stepped on a land mine 10 years ago and endured painful operations, was fitted Saturday in Thailand for a permanent artificial leg.

The 48-year-old pachyderm became a symbol of the plight of today's elephants, and her injury sparked international sympathy and donations.

Experts were making a cast of her injured left front leg for a plastic prosthetic limb which will be attached later Saturday.

"I do hope she will accept the new leg. It would be wonderful to see Motola and Baby Mosha walking together side-by-side," said Soraida Salwala, secretary general of the Friends of the Asian Elephant, a non-governmental group.

Mosha, also a land mine victim, became the world's first elephant with an artificial leg, attached in 2007. Soraida said Mosha, now a 3-year-old, is faring well and has outgrown three of her prosthetic devices.



Elephant keepers help a staff member from Protheses Foundation, bottom right, to fit an artificial leg for Motola, a 48-year-old female elephant who lost part of her left leg after stepping on a land mine 10 years ago at the Elephant Hospital in Lampang province, northern Thailand Sunday, Aug. 16, 2009.



ASIAN BRIEFS

SKorea announces 2nd swine flu-related death

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korea says a woman infected with swine flu has died, becoming the country's second fatality linked to the virus. The Health Ministry says the 63-year-old woman died of organ failure on Sunday, days after being infected with swine flu. The woman, who has not traveled abroad or been in contact with infected people, started to have flu-like symptoms such as a cough, fever and difficulty breathing on July 24. The ministry said a 56-year-old man died Saturday of acute pneumonia and septicemia days after being infected with the virus. South Korea has so far confirmed 2,089 cases of swine flu, but most have recovered.

Philippines seizes \$10.4 million smuggled diamonds

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A British woman has been arrested for allegedly smuggling \$10.4 million worth of diamonds into the Philippines, an official said Friday. Officers from the presi-

dential anti-smuggling group arrested Alpha Kwok, a Chinese-born British national from Hong Kong, at an upscale Manila condominium Tuesday and seized 160 carats of diamonds along with uncut emeralds and other precious stones, said Antonio Villar Jr., head of the agency. Kwok has been charged with smuggling and detained pending a review of the case by the Justice Department, Villar said. He said that some of the seized diamonds already were set on rings, earrings and pendants and others were loose stones.

China blames factory for sickening 600 children

BEIJING (AP)—A lead and zinc plant was found to be the main source of lead poisoning that sickened more than 600 children in northwestern China, prompting an apology from a company official to residents, a state news agency reported Sunday. Tests by environmental officials found a higher than normal lead content in the air around the Dongling Lead and Zinc Smelting Co. in Changqing, a

township in Shaanxi province, the official Xinhua News Agency said. At least 615 out of 731 children living in two villages near the smelter tested positive for lead poisoning.

RP to ramp up fight vs militants

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo ordered the military on Saturday to intensify offensives against Abu Sayyaf guerrillas after honoring 23 troops killed in a recent gunbattle to capture camps from the al-Qaida-linked militants, an official said. Arroyo embraced weeping wives and family members of the slain troops, whose bodies are lying in state at a military camp gymnasium in the southern port city of Zamboanga. She also gave Merit Medals to the marines and soldiers, who were killed when troops assaulted and captured two Abu Sayyaf camps on Wednesday on the southern island province of Basilan, said Defense Secretary Gilbert Teodoro. He said 31 militants were killed, and 22 government troops were wounded in their deadliest clash in years.

World

Iraqis uneasy at idea of early US withdrawal

BAGHDAD (AP)—Unnerved by bombings that have killed hundreds this summer, many Iraqis are losing faith in their own security forces and fear the Americans are leaving too quickly.

The misgivings about the U.S. pullback from the cities, and even about the Dec. 31, 2011 deadline for a full withdrawal, come at a time when a senior U.S. officer has suggested the Americans declare victory and leave even sooner.

Iraqis, including military commanders, believe their security forces aren't ready to act alone.

"We do not want a hasty withdrawal. The Americans have promised a responsible withdrawal in coordination with the Iraqi government and they should live up to their commitments," said Abbas al-Bayati, chairman of parliament's security committee.

A security pact by the U.S. and Iraqi governments lays out the timetable, but this summer's attacks mainly targeting Shiites and minority groups in northern Iraq and Baghdad have shaken public confidence.

At least 520 Iraqis have been killed, 378 of them in bombings, since June 30, the date the withdrawal from the cities was completed, according to an Associated Press tally.

"I don't blame Sunnis for these cruel attacks that Shiites are suffering from now. There are political reasons behind them," Ali Jassim, a 45-year-old Shiite store owner in Baghdad, said after bombings in Mosul and Baghdad Monday. "What do these government promises and assurances that security is under control mean? I strongly demand that the Americans return to the streets and with even

more presence than before."

While past attacks have led to sectarian retaliation, Iraqis now focus their anger on government forces and political stagnation. The Shiite-led government is criticized for failing to use its gains against insurgents to promote reconciliation with Sunnis.

Still, the Pentagon found in a recent report to Congress that more than 80 percent of Iraqis surveyed in April said they had confidence Iraq's army and police could protect them, compared with just 27 percent for American forces.

This is the contradiction Iraqis face: They badly want their country back but remain heavily dependent on the U.S. military to help clear roadside bombs, deploy attack aircraft, gather intelligence and even make weather forecasts for flights.

Missing ship: a foggy saga of rumors, few clues

MOSCOW (AP)—The workaday cargo ship the *Arctic Sea*, which for decades plowed the world's waterways in obscurity, just had to disappear to be thrust into a swirling drama of rumors and intrigue. The plot thickened Saturday as a Russian maritime expert reported signals from the ship's tracking device and Finnish authorities said there was a ransom demand.

The signals from the Finnish-owned ship suddenly appeared

in the Bay of Biscay off France, Mikhail Voitenko reported on his Web site Sovfrakht.

The French Navy dismissed the claim, maintaining that the ship most likely was somewhere in the vicinity of Cape Verde—an island nation off the coast of Africa some 2,000 miles (3,200 kilometers) further south. Widespread reports on Friday also had placed the Russian-crewed ship near the island nation off West Africa,

but officials later said it could not be confirmed.

The signal vanished after about an hour and the device that transmitted it could have been dismantled from the *Arctic Sea* and placed on another vessel, Voitenko said.

"It's very improbable that the *Arctic Sea* is now in the Bay of Biscay," Voitenko told Associated Press Television News. It is believed that the ship last had radio contact there.

Hamas crushes challenge by al-Qaida-inspired group

RAFAH, Gaza Strip (AP)—Hamas crushed an al-Qaida-inspired group in an hours-long standoff that came to a fiery end when a large explosion killed the radical Muslim group's leader inside his Gaza home on Saturday.

The fighting was sparked by a rebellious sermon by the group's leader, and his dramatic death put an end to the greatest internal challenge to Hamas' rule since it took control of Gaza two years ago.

In all, the fighting claimed 24 lives—including that of a senior Hamas official who Israel says masterminded the abduction of an Israeli soldier. It was the highest death toll in the territory since the Israel-Hamas war earlier this year.

The crackdown targeted Jund Ansar Allah, or the Soldiers of the Companions of God, one of a number of small, shadowy groups that are even more radical than Hamas. The decisive

confrontation, in which 95 group members were arrested, solidified Hamas' iron rule in Gaza.

The radical groups have sought to expand the Palestinians' battle beyond Israel to include the Western World as well. And in Gaza they have tried to enforce a strict version of Islamic law to which Hamas has not agreed. They have also attacked Internet cafes and wedding parties over behavior they consider improper.



WORLD BRIEFS

Wedding fire in Kuwait kills at least 41 guests

KUWAIT CITY (AP)—A fire at a wedding tent Saturday has killed at least 41 women and children guests and injured 76 others, authorities said. The official Kuwait News Agency quotes the fire department chief, Brig. Gen. Jassem al-Mansouri, as saying 41 bodies have been recovered from the scene in Jahra, a tribal area west of Kuwait City. KUNA said 76 people have been hospitalized with burns. Interior Ministry spokesman Col. Mohammed al-Saber said the cause of the fire has not been determined and authorities were having difficulty evacuating the injured because of relatives and onlook-

ers flooding the scene.

Farmers kidnap 13 cops, 4 civilians in Peru

LIMA, Peru (AP)—Farmers freed 13 police officers and four civilians seized at a hydroelectric dam in Peru's Andean region after local officials agreed Saturday to provide them with fertilizer. Authorities said the hostages were held for nearly 24 hours at a church in Huallamayo, a town about 215 kilometers (133 miles) northeast of the capital, Lima. Miguel Hidalgo, director of police, told radio RPP that talks involving government officials, the power plant company and farmer representatives produced agreement on releasing the pris-

oners. He said the government promised fertilizer would be delivered within 15 days.

Britain suffers 200th Afghanistan death

LONDON (AP)—A British soldier wounded in an explosion in Afghanistan died Saturday, the defense ministry said, bringing the country's military death toll there to 200. Prime Minister Gordon Brown called the grim milestone "deeply tragic news." It is sure to raise more questions about Britain's increasingly perilous mission in Afghanistan. The Ministry of Defense said the soldier from 2nd Battalion the Royal Welsh died Saturday at a military hospital in England.

Health & Fitness

Breast cancer survivors have been getting bum advice. For decades, many doctors warned that lifting weights or even heavy groceries could cause painful arm swelling. New research shows that weight training actually helps prevent this problem.

"How many generations of women have been told to avoid lifting heavy objects?" Dr. Eric Winer, breast cancer chief at the Dana-Farber Cancer Center in Boston, lamented after seeing the surprising results of the new study. "Women who were doing the lifting actually had fewer arm problems because they had better muscle tone."

The study was led by Kathryn Schmitz, an exercise scientist at the University of Pennsylvania, and funded by the federal government. Results are in Thursday's New England Journal of Medicine.

More than 2.4 million Americans are breast cancer survivors, and the study could mean a big difference in their quality of life. Cancer treatment-related arm swelling now appears to be one of many ailments made better by exercise—not worse, Schmitz said.

"Fifty years ago we told people who had a heart attack not to exercise anymore," and people with sore backs to heal with bed rest, Schmitz said. "It was well-meaning advice but it was polar opposite of the truth."

Women who have had radiation to the armpit, or lymph nodes removed to check for cancer, can suffer lymphedema—a buildup of fluids that causes painful and unsightly swelling of the arms or hands.

To avoid it, doctors have advised women to avoid using the affected arm to lift toddlers, carry a heavy purse or scrub floors. Even activities like golf and tennis raised concern.

Women think, "Oh, my God, I need to baby the arm," Schmitz said.



Study: Weightlifting helps breast cancer survivors

YMCA of Burlington County Wellness Director Joann Agoglia helps cancer survivor Gay McArthur of Smithville, N.J., with a weight lifting exercise program, Tuesday, Aug. 11, 2009, in Mount Laurel, N.J.

AP

Lifting weights—which boosts mood, muscle mass, bone strength and weight control—was thought to be a bad idea for women prone to lymphedema.

Schmitz challenged that notion with a small study several years ago, finding that weight training did not make lymphedema worse. Her new study is the first one large and long enough to give clear proof that this is so, and even suggests that weightlifting can help.

It involved 141 breast cancer survivors who had suffered lymphedema. Half were told not to change their exercise habits. The rest were given 90-minute weightlifting classes twice a week for 13 weeks at community gyms, mostly YMCAs.

They wore a custom-fitted compression garment on the affected arm and gradually worked up to more challenging weights and repetitions. For the next 39 weeks, they continued these exercises on their own.

The women's arms were measured monthly. After one year, fewer weightlifters had suffered lymphedema flare-ups—14 percent versus 29 percent of the others. Weightlifters reported fewer symptoms and greater strength. Rates of change in arm size due to swelling were similar in both groups.

"I found it was really very effective. It not only gave me strength and mobility but it improved my balance and coordination," said one participant, Clare

Faber, 66, of suburban Philadelphia. "It really does offer women hope."

Another participant, Gay McArthur, 56, of Smithfield, N.J., has continued weightlifting on her own since the study ended.

"When I first got diagnosed with lymphedema, they said I couldn't lift more than five pounds," she said. But weight training caused no problems and has made her feel better, she said.

It also should save money, though the study did not measure this, Wendy Demark-Wahnefried, of the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, wrote in an editorial in the medical journal. In the study, the group of weightlifters made only 77 visits to

doctors or physical therapists for lymphedema flare-ups versus 195 visits for the others, she noted.

Another part of the study is evaluating whether weight training can prevent a first case of lymphedema in breast cancer survivors; results are expected soon, Schmitz said.

Breast cancer survivors should not rush into weight training—that could trigger problems. Schmitz suggests:

- Have a certified fitness professional teach you how to do the exercises properly.
- Start slow, with a program that gradually progresses.
- Wear a well-fitting compression garment during workouts.

By SHARON MCDOWELL-LARSEN
SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST

Want a business reason to turn off the computer, leave the office and hit the gym? How about news that regular exercise could make you a better leader?

A study from the Center for Creative Leadership found that executives who exercise are significantly more effective leaders than those who don't.

Using data from CEOs and other top executives collected over a span of 10 years, we compared two groups: those who were regular exercisers and those who were non-exercisers or sporadic exercisers. We cross-referenced the exercise status with "360-degree" assessment tools in which the individual executive is rated by colleagues on various leadership attributes.

We found that the exercisers rated significantly higher than their non-exercising peers on overall leadership effectiveness. They also scored higher on specific traits including: inspiring commitment, credibility, leading others, leading by example, energy, resilience and calmness.

Sweating can make you a better leader

Of course, the lives of executives are busy and stressful. Finding time for regular exercise is a challenge for most. Competing priorities, guilt over setting aside the time, long work hours, long commutes, and tiredness are common roadblocks.

For all of us, finding time to exercise takes effort, drive and creativity. You can start by setting a goal to do something active every day. You'll begin to pay attention to where your time goes and seek out slots for exercise. You may end up with 15 minutes on most days but find you can fit in 30 to 60 minutes two or three times a week.

Other strategies for maintaining regular fitness programs in spite of extremely busy schedules include:

1 Do more, more often. Find little ways to increase your activity throughout the day: walk while talking on the phone, take frequent

stretch breaks, park at the far end of the lot, and take the stairs. Take advantage of an open slot in your calendar whenever it appears. Even ten minutes of moderate to vigorous exercise can boost mood and energy.

2 Keep track. Log your workouts: what you did and for how long. You'll be able to track progress, set goals and stay motivated.

3 Mix it up. Your stationary bike or treadmill may be convenient, but be sure to add variety. Physically, it is important to change your pace and intensity; mentally, you are likely to get bored if you always do the same thing. Go outdoors. Play a sport. Try a new exercise class. Go dancing.

4 Focus on exercise not size. Consistent exercise matters more than weight loss. The

CCL study found that levels of body fat made no difference in how leaders were rated by their bosses, peers and direct reports. These findings don't negate the potential health detriments of excess body fat, but your first priority should be to make exercise a habit. Weight loss and other fitness goals can be addressed later with guidance from your doctor.

5 Get a trainer or exercise coach. A personal trainer or access to a trainer at your gym can be a great motivator and a time saver. The trainer can help you plan your exercise program, show you safe ways to intensify your workout, and keep you going when you want to quit or take it easy.

6 Take it on the road. Road warriors and occasional travelers can work in exercise with minimal effort. Pack a set of stretch cords for

resistance training, a pair of running shoes and a swimsuit. Walk between airport terminals and gates when you have the time. Use stairs. Get smart about your hotel: Many have fitness centers, nearby gyms, or will even put a treadmill in your room.

7 Be patient. Many people start a program because of health concerns. At first, exercise is a chore. If you stick with it, the daily benefits will kick in. Executives who exercise regularly look forward to it, saying that it is a stress release, a great way to think of new ideas, to feel strong and flexible, to have stamina, and to have "time for me."

Sharon McDowell-Larsen is a Senior Associate and Exercise Physiologist with the Center for Creative Leadership and a former U.S. Olympic Committee researcher. She is co-author of the 2008 book *Managing Leadership Stress*. This is adapted from the *On Leadership* blog at washingtonpost.com.

Life & Style

Second part of a series

What was supposed to be a few hours' trip to the picturesque Lake Tahoe located along the border between California and Nevada ended up an 18-hour journey that started in foggy San Francisco at 7:30am, then to Vacaville, Lake Tahoe, Carson City, Reno, Sacramento, Davis, back to San Francisco, and finally, to Mountain View at past 1:30am the following day. There are lots of other places to explore in between. But at the time, we believed we covered the highlights, given the spontaneity of most of the trip.

The road trip gave me a chance not only to revel in the untamed beauty of a small part of California and Nevada (from a Spanish word meaning "snow-clad") in the summer, but also to nurture friendships, discover wonders, and reflect on life's own jour-



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

The famous arch over N. Virginia Street says it all.

18-hour road trip from California to Nevada and back

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

the brilliantly blue lake, the mountains, the clear blue skies, the trees and gorgeous rocks in one frame. The scenery beckons.

Because that was only about 1pm, Aldwin suggested we might as well set out to "nearby" Reno in Nevada. When we hit the road again, Reno was anything but "near." By that time, we're already hungry and didn't expect to see a restaurant or a fast food chain in the middle of what we considered a desert. It was so humid I was wishing we'd reach our destination soon.

Almost throughout the road trip, we talked about almost everything under the sun, but would momentarily stop talking when we see something odd or amusing, like a proud American flag atop a rocky hill on our way to Carson City. They say one knows when he's in Nevada when he starts seeing slot machines in grocery stores and gas stations. But Reno is a long way from the more popular and flashier casino destination, Las Vegas.

And so began our walking tour of casinos, hotels and sometimes funny looking structures, including Circus, Fitzgeralds and El Dorado. There's also Silver Legacy, Siena, Sands Regency, and Harrah's, among other structures. Were it not for the arch over N. Virginia Street, I wouldn't know that Reno is "The Biggest Little City in the World."

Because of the terribly humid temperature, some people were walking around shirtless. A "just married" sign was taped to a woman's back. Some souvenir "Reno" shirts were advertised "3 for \$10" but tourists should be wary. Every face I saw on the street had a smile on it. Probably they won in the casinos? I wouldn't know but I love to keep it that way. But I also wondered where the parents would take their babies in strollers after crossing the street.

When we entered one of the casinos, the first order of business was to eat. After that, we parted ways temporarily: them to the gambling machines so they could "rest" after a grueling drive, and me, to find a restroom and do some more sightseeing to compensate for not knowing anything about casino gaming when you're in Nevada.

Dinner in Sacramento, the capital of California, sounded great when Aldwin suggested it. And so began another

See 18-HOUR on Next Page



This church is just one of the architectural grandeurs that downtown Sacramento has to offer visitors and residents.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

neys, although the latter would be a separate story that could border on existentialist discourse.

The trip also put my and my friends' stamina and creativity to the test. How else did we manage to amuse ourselves when we temporarily ran out of stories to share? Dozing off was not an option, except for one time for the passenger at the back, former *Saipan Tribune* reporter Marconi Calindas. I, as the front passenger, had to keep the driver, former *Saipan Tribune* editor Aldwin Fajardo, company.

We left the ever charming San Francisco at 7:30am, crossed Bay Bridge, and on to a number of counties. We stopped at the much warmer Vacaville in Solano County for what was supposed to be a quick breakfast. But because we talked and laughed about a lot of things, people and places as if there's no tomorrow, we stayed much longer than expected.

What followed was an almost endless sights of rolling mountains, alpine trees, long and winding roads, beautiful rock formations, log cabins, and motorists heading the same direction with kayaks and bicycles in tow.

The Sierra Nevada mountain range, spanning 400 miles along the California-Nevada border, was a lovely sight. No matter where you look, the glacier-scarred granite world interwoven with trees and meadows is worth more than a few photographs. A few days earlier, I was asked to choose between a road trip to the glamorous Los Angeles or the natural wonder that's Lake Tahoe, and there was no hesitation in my response.

But none of my friends had been to Lake Tahoe. We relied on "Mathilda,"

Aldwin's GPS, so we got to enjoy our journey and reach our destination. I still remember how Aldwin would scoff at Mathilda for saying, "recalculating." The gadget was also a source of fascination for someone who has never used one before, living for years on the island of Saipan. That secret fascination with the wonders of GPS started when my dear friend Marvin and I explored San Francisco days earlier. How I wished Marvin was there too for the long journey.

As it was summer, people flocked to Lake Tahoe's shores to swim, play, do kayaking, sail, or simply bask in the sun and take in the view of a stunning natural wonder nestled among rugged peaks. The postcard perfect Lake Tahoe is a large freshwater lake in the Sierra Nevada mountains, and is the largest alpine lake in North America. In winter, it's a haven for skiers because of its famous slopes.

By this time, the stops depended on whether we'd like to snap some shots of the scenery—with or without our faces in it—or for some stretching. We made major stops in Lake Tahoe. The first one was to explore the town by foot, passing many souvenir shops, wooden bear sculptures, equally amazed tourists, and friendly residents, before setting out for a somewhat crowded beach. Parking spaces were free of charge. And after battling with San Francisco's chilly summer fog for days, walking under the sun in the much warmer Lake Tahoe was such a glorious relief, at least for me.

The next stop was Memorial Point, where many of our Lake Tahoe souvenir photos were taken. We couldn't get enough of the amazing view of



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

One of the better shots I managed to snap while inside a moving vehicle on our way to Reno.

18-HOUR

From Page 18

long drive. We had one minor stop, and I collected free newspapers along the way, including Sierra Sun and Lake Tahoe Action. Our energy was beginning to subside. We're tired. We joked about just having a souvenir photograph in front of where California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger holds office, eat, and then leave. That was a Saturday so the offices were closed.

But when we reached downtown, we were so engrossed with the architectural grandeur of the churches and other buildings that we forgot our exhaustion. We also watched a street fair where gypsy-clad women were dancing with fires to the beat of drums and other percussion instruments. As it was getting dark, we hurried to the 19th century California

A visit to Sacramento is not complete without stopping by the California state capitol.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



state capitol and executed the plan we hatched before stepping foot on Sacramento. The building's dome bears a striking resemblance to the one crowning the Capitol building in Washington, D.C. On the ground floor is a museum.

We then put GPS Mathilda to good use to find a restaurant. We agreed on Thai food, but there was nothing still open that time of the night in the area. We were bent on just driving back to San Francisco for a sumptuous dinner but our hunger took the better of us. We ended up eating at a Thai restaurant on the UC Davis campus teeming with college students who were just about ready to enjoy Saturday night. It was nice to pretend to be young college students again!

And so began the drive back to San Francisco to drop Marconi off, before I was dropped off to Mountain View at past 1:30am. It's one of my most

memorable road trips. But little did I know that in a few days, I would have another 18-hour road trip.

To be concluded.



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

The postcard perfect Lake Tahoe.

In Loving Memory Rita Hocog Inos, Ed.D

Our Heavenly Father welcomed Rita to her eternal life on Monday, August 10, 2009 at the age of 55 years at the Commonwealth Health Center. Mass of intention and nightly rosary is being offered at 6:00 p.m. at the St. Jude Church in Saipan and at 7:00 p.m. at the San Francisco de Borja Church in Rota.

At the eternal gates of our Heavenly Father, Rita now joins her mother: Ana Songao Hocog and her parents-in-law Vicente Atalig Inos and Ana Songao Inos.

Rita's compassion and wonderful sense of humor are being lovingly celebrated by her Husband: Cristobal S. Inos, her children: Denise Lorraine Hocog Inos, and Ana Blossom Hocog Inos and granddaughter Elisabeth Inos Gardner.

Rita is survived by her brothers, sister and their spouses and children:

Senator Paterno Hocog & Elizabeth Mendiola (Anginette Sasakura Mendiola-Bamba & John Anthony Bamba, Joshua Alfred Mendiola-Bamba, John Anthony Mundo-Bamba, Jr., Jay Chris, Andre Mendiola Bamba, Carrie Lynn Ayuyu Hocog & Vito Mesngon Ulloa, Jr., Andrei Mendiola & Elinor Amon, Elenecca Dee Amon Mendiola, Paterno Jose Ayuyu Hocog, Patty Beth Mendiola Hocog, and Paterno Mendiola Hocog, Jr.)

Manuel Hocog

Pedro Hocog & Elizabeth Barcinas (Abel Barcinas Hocog, Flavian Barcinas Hocog, Lucille Barcinas Hocog, Peter Anthony Barcinas Hocog)

Angel Hocog

Elizabeth Hocog Apatang & Joseph Apatang (Jolynn Hocog Apatang)

Edward Hocog & Ruby Hocog, (Edward Manglona Hocog, Jr., Domingo Manglona Hocog, Angieanna Manglona Hocog, Esco Ann Dela Cruz Hocog, Kiana Dela Cruz Hocog)

She is additionally survived by her brothers/sisters-in-law:

Mayor Joseph S. & Lucy S. Inos & Children
Lt. Governor Eloy S. & Dolores A. Inos & Children
Esther I. & Jose Basa & Children
Ramon & Juanita I. Takai & Children
Rufin S. & Thelma B. Inos & Children
Ramon & Lucy I. Sablan & Children

Numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, and nephews will also miss her.

Viewing will be held on Saturday, August 15, 2009 from 7:30 a.m. and followed by Memorial Mass at 11:00 a.m. at the Mt. Carmel Cathedral.

Last respects for Rita will be held at the San Francisco de Borja Church in Rota on Tuesday, August 18, 2009 from 7:00 a.m. Mass of Christian burial will be celebrated at 11:00 a.m., burial will follow immediately at San Jose Cemetary in Songsong Village (Rota).

***Si Yu'us Ma'ase ginen as Cristobal S. Inos,
I famagu'ona yan I familia.***



You're Bob Dylan? NJ police want to see some ID

By WAYNE PARRY
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

Rock legend Bob Dylan was treated like a complete unknown by police in a New Jersey shore community when a resident called to report someone wandering around the neighborhood. Dylan was in Long Branch, about a two-hour drive south of New York City, on July 23 as part of a tour with Willie Nelson and John Mellencamp that was to play at a baseball stadium in nearby Lakewood.

A 24-year-old police officer apparently was unaware of who Dylan is and asked him for identification, Long Branch business administrator Howard Woolley said Friday.

"I don't think she was familiar with his entire body of work," Woolley said. The incident began at 5 p.m. when a resident said a man was wandering around a low-income, predominantly minority neighborhood several blocks from the oceanfront looking at houses.

The police officer drove up to Dylan, who was wearing a blue jacket, and asked him his name.

According to Woolley, the following exchange ensued:

"What is your name, sir?" the officer asked.

"Bob Dylan," Dylan said.

"OK, what are you doing here?" the officer asked.

"I'm on tour," the singer replied.

A second officer, also in his 20s, responded to assist the first officer. He, too, apparently was unfamiliar with Dylan, Woolley said.

The officers asked Dylan for identification. The singer of such classics as "Like a Rolling Stone" and "Blowin' in the Wind" said that he didn't have any ID with him, that he was just walking around looking at houses to pass some time before that night's show.

The officers asked Dylan, 68, to accompany them back to the Ocean Place Resort and Spa, where the performers were staying. Once there, tour staff vouched for Dylan.

The officers thanked him for his cooperation.

"He couldn't have been any nicer to them," Woolley added.

How did it feel? A Dylan publicist did not immediately return a telephone call seeking comment Friday.



Fan mad about Archie engaging Veronica sells comic

DALLAS (AP)—When comic book store owner Dave Luebke heard that after 67 years, the carrot-topped everyman of the comic world, Archie, was proposing to va-va-voomy rich girl Veronica instead of girl-next-door Betty, he decided to protest by selling his copy of the series' rare first issue.

Luebke's Archie Comics No. 1 sold for \$38,837 when Dallas' Heritage Auction Galleries offered it Friday. Heritage spokesman Noah Fleisher said the buyer was a longtime Archie reader and collector from Virginia who did not want to be identified.

"Betty is it. Not Veronica," said Luebke, whose Richmond, Va., store has more than 1 million comics in stock. "This is serious."

And, he said, 99 percent of his customers agree that perky, blond Betty is the clear choice over shiny dark-haired Veronica in the seemingly never-ending love triangle.

"It's amazing how many stories they've gotten out of this over the years," said Barry Sandoval, Heritage director of operations of the comics division.

The Archie Comics Web site shows Archie proposing to Veronica on bended knee on the cover of No. 600, which hits



In this Thursday, Aug. 6, 2009, photo, Dave Luebke, owner of Dave's Comics holds a photo of the Number One Archie Comic Book that he is selling at his shop in Richmond, Va.

comic book stores Aug. 19. That begins a six-issue story arc that takes place in the future—when the perpetual high schoolers have graduated from college, said Victor Gorelick, editor-in-chief of Archie Comics.

He said people all over the world are reacting to Archie's choice and "mostly everyone feels bad for Betty."

For those heartbroken by Archie's choice, Gorelick remains coy, advising: "I just tell them to stick with it. Read through it

and you'll see what happens. A lot happens. A lot goes on."

The Archie Comics Web site shows the proposal issue is followed by an issue with a cover featuring the couple at the altar, Veronica proclaiming "I do!" and Archie saying "Do I ever!" In the next issue, twins are on the way.

After the six-issue story arc, the gang will return to high school, Gorelick said.

Tom Michael, a teen comics collector from Iola, Wis., has

a feeling all might not be what it seems.

"I have a feeling that the last issues will have him asking Betty to marry him," Michael said.

Sandoval, who said Luebke's No. 1 is in excellent condition, suspects Luebke's reason for selling might have a bit more to do with the money than anger.

Luebke concedes that the economic downturn was a factor, but he said his outrage on behalf of Betty is real.

Bollywood star downplays incident at US airport

ROSEMONT, Ill. (AP)—Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan on Saturday downplayed being questioned at a U.S. airport, saying it was part of a necessary but unfortunate procedure.

Khan, one of the Indian film industry's biggest stars, is in the U.S. to promote his new film, "My Name is Khan," which is about racial profiling.

He told Press Trust of India news agency that he was detained because his name came up on a computer alert list at Newark Liberty International Airport in New Jersey. However, U.S. customs officials told The Associated Press that Khan was questioned as part of a routine process that took 66 minutes.

"I told them I am a movie star," Press Trust quoted Khan as saying.

The reported detention made top news on TV stations in India.

Khan told reporters in suburban Chicago on Saturday that he did not want an apology from the U.S. government. Asked about what happened, he simply said: "I think it's a procedure that needs to be followed, but an unfortunate procedure."

Khan made his comments after appearing at an Indian festival in Rosemont and did not mention the incident in his remarks to the crowd.

U.S. Bureau of Customs and Border Protection spokesman



In this Dec. 8, 2008 file photograph, Bollywood actor Shah Rukh Khan gestures during an interview with The Associated Press at his residence in Mumbai, India.

Elmer Camacho said Khan was not detained.

"His documents and papers were checked, which were found to be in correct order, but it took a little longer because his bag was lost by the airline."

Jen Friedberg, a spokeswoman for the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, which operates the airport, said the agency did not request that Khan be detained.

In New Delhi, U.S. Ambassador to India, Timothy J. Ro-

emer, said the U.S. Embassy was trying to "ascertain the facts of the case—to understand what took place."

"Shah Rukh Khan, the actor and global icon, is a very welcome guest in the United States. Many Americans love his films," Roemer said Saturday through an embassy spokesman.

Khan, 44, has acted in more than 70 films, and has consistently topped popularity rankings in India for the past several years.

First Death Anniversary Masses

We the Children of
Maria (Terang) Terlaje Santos Muna

would like to remind relatives and friends
as we celebrate the eternal life of our
Mother/Grandmother/Great Grandmother.

Daily Mass of Intention will be said at 6:00 a.m. at
Mt. Carmel Cathedral in Chalan Kanoa beginning
Wednesday, August 12 to 20, 2009
except Sunday, August 16, 2009, (9:00 a.m. mass)

Also, Daily Mass of Intention will be said at 6:00 p.m. at
St. Jude Church beginning Wednesday, August 12-20 2009
except Saturday, August 15, 2009 (7:00 a.m. mass)
and Sunday, August 16, (8:00 a.m. mass)

Please join us for light refreshment
on Thursday, August 20,
after the 6:00 am Mass
at the Joeten Daidai Social Hall at
Mt. Carmel Cathedral in Chalan Kanoa.

Thank you for your thoughts and prayers!

The Children



Madonna turns 51 on concert stop in Poland

WARSAW, Poland (AP)—Polish fans joined together in song to wish Madonna a happy birthday at a concert in Warsaw Saturday evening—just hours before she turned 51.

In a break between two songs, a fan held up a sign wishing her

a happy birthday and audience members sang, “may you live a hundred years,” a traditional Polish birthday song.

“I feel your love!” Madonna told the crowd of tens of thousands gathered on a large green field for the latest stop in her

Sticky & Sweet tour.

Many of the fans near the stage also held up paper hearts. One said: “Adopt Me.”

Her stop in Warsaw fell not only a day before her birthday, but also on the August 15, the Roman Catholic holiday celebrating the heavenly assumption of the Virgin Mary—timing that angered some Catholics.

Several people who objected to Madonna held up banners outside the concert venue, and a Catholic group tried to spearhead protests in past weeks hoping to force the Material Girl to change the date of the concert. It failed, however, to win support from the official church or the

public. Though Poland, homeland of the late John Paul II, is mainly Catholic, young urban Poles have overwhelmingly embraced pop culture and mores.

During the concert, Madonna also paid tribute to Michael Jackson, who died in June.

A Jackson impersonator did the King of Pop’s signature moonwalk dance move while wearing a sequined jacket, white T-shirt, white glove and white socks, while a large photograph of him as a boy appeared on stage.

“Let’s give it up for one of the greatest artists the world has ever known,” Madonna shouted, and then segued into a performance of her old hit “Holiday.”

George Michael says he was sober during car crash

LONDON (AP)—George Michael has been questioned by police after his car was involved in a late-night crash near London.

Thames Valley Police said only that a 46-year-old man was arrested after a Land Rover hit a tractor-trailer on the A34 road early Friday. He was released without charge five hours later.

Michael confirmed the incident Saturday but said in a statement he had been “stone cold sober.”

Michael says he didn’t want his fans or family “worried by what they are reading.”

The Sun newspaper quoted the trucker, Lawrie Rowe, as saying the singer appeared dazed and confused.

Michael was banned from driving for two years in June 2007 after pleading guilty to driving while unfit through drugs. He was found slumped at the wheel of his car in north London.

Hilary Duff brings her charity work to Colombia



US artist Hilary Duff, second left, gestures with children as she visits an institute for former street kids in Bogota, Saturday, Aug. 15, 2009.

BOGOTA (AP)—Singer-actress Hilary Duff brought her Blessings in a Backpack program to Colombia Friday to distribute 3,000 knapsacks of food to poor children in a school district south of the capital city.

Duff will spend three days visiting children and participating in a vaccination campaign. She was greeted by Bogota Mayor Samuel Moreno, whom Duff said gave her “an amazing invitation” to bring the program to Colombia.

“We’ve been working for four years feeding children over the weekends,” she said. “They invited us to come here, and we got our first school in Bogota.”

Duff and USA Harvest founder Stan Curtis started Blessings in a Backpack for children who get their best meals at school, giving them backpacks of food every Friday to take home and share with their families when they’re away from their main source of nutrition. The program serves 106

schools and 26,000 children in the U.S. and Canada.

Colombia is the third country to take on the program, said Duff, 21, who earned fame as the teenage character Lizzie McGuire in a Disney series of the same title. She has appeared more recently in “War, Inc.” and “Material Girls” and recorded several hit songs and music videos.

Duff said she only has time to visit Colombia because of work. She is filming six episodes of the television series “Gossip Girl,” followed by a romantic comedy and a remake of “Bonnie and Clyde.”

When asked if she had a favorite Colombian singer, she said Shakira, who also does charity work with children in her home country.

“I think she’s an amazing writer,” Duff said. “She really has a strong idea of what she wants and she can play a lot of instruments and that really impresses me.”

Lonely woman sees a bleak future in her small world

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I am a 46-year-old woman, and I feel as though my life is over. I lost my job more than a year ago and haven’t been able to find another one. I have no friends, and it has been 13 years since I dated.

I live day to day, only for my mom and my dog—both of whom I love tremendously. I’m glad I can spend so much time with them each day, but I know I’m missing out on something more in my life.

I am well-educated, well-read and have traveled quite a bit, when my financial situation was better.

Abby, I feel like I’m 96, not 46! I am depressed and disheartened and don’t know what to do. I can’t afford counseling. I have thought about volunteering, but I don’t want to work with kids and most volunteer jobs require that.

Please, can you suggest anything to help me out of this slump? I figure I have a good 20 to 30 years of living before me, and I just can’t go on like this.

I have already accepted that I’ll never find a mate, and I’m struggling with the thought that someday, Mom will no longer be here. I see no future for myself. Please tell me what to do.

DOWN IN CONNECTICUT

DEAR DOWN: It is premature to conclude that you will “never” find a job, a friend or a mate. Things seem hopeless right now because you are depressed.

In your letter you hit on a wonderful, positive idea—your impulse to volunteer. Not all volunteer opportunities involve children. How about volunteering at a non-profit organization, an assisted-living facility for seniors, a VA center, an animal shelter, a program for people who are homeless, a food delivery program for shut-ins. Your local police department might also welcome some administrative help from a mature, organized adult.

I’m sure your time and talents would be deeply appreciated whatever you decide to do. Not only would volunteering be a rewarding way to fill your time, but it will help you to network.

P.S. Counseling is available on a sliding financial scale in most counties if you feel you need professional help.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: My boyfriend, “Cooper,” and I started dating last fall. His parents and I get along well, but there is one person in his life who doesn’t want us to be together. That would be “Claire,” a close family friend who is also known as Cooper’s “second mom.” Cooper dated Claire’s daughter for a few months a couple of years ago.

Cooper is polite, smart and good looking. It’s no wonder that Claire would rather he date her daughter. There have been many times that Claire has been rude to me, including saying to my face that she wishes Cooper would break up with me and start dating her daughter again.

I have spoken to Cooper about it. Apparently, Claire has tried to pressure him about it behind my back many times. Abby, do you think I should say something to this woman, or just let it be?

BOTHERED IN GEORGIA

DEAR BOTHERED: I see nothing positive to be gained by taking the bait and getting into an unpleasant conversation with “Mama Claire.” When she says something again (and she will), smile and say, “I know. You’ve already made that clear.”

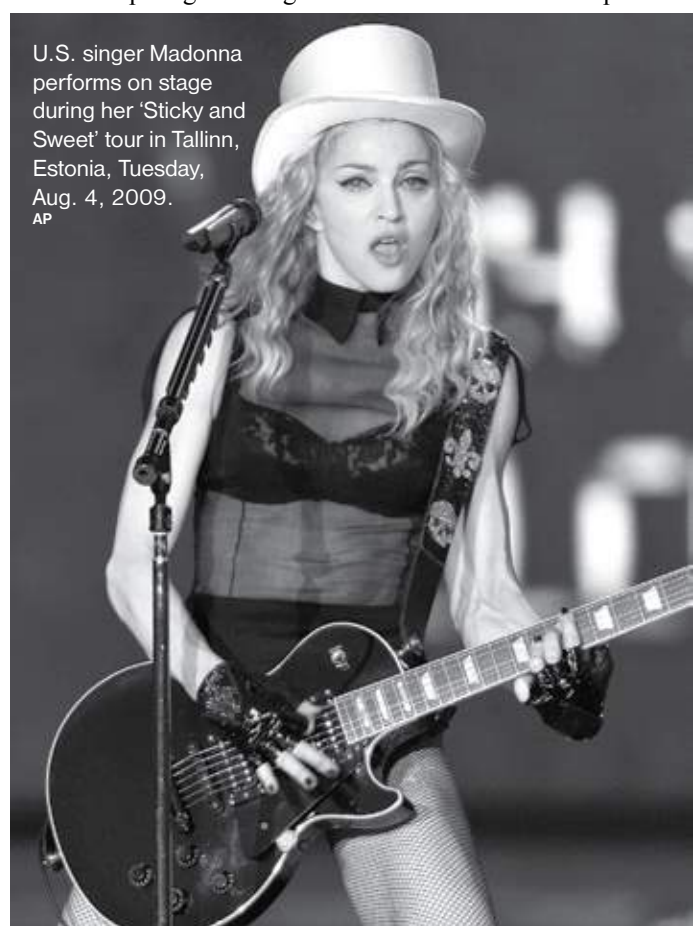
Claire’s daughter is no threat to you, and if dating her was at all appealing to your boyfriend, he would still be doing it.

■■■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

■■■

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: “Abby’s Favorite Recipes” and “More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby.” Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$12 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in price.)



Jet Li, other stars donate to Taiwan storm victims

HONG KONG (AP)—Jet Li and fellow celebrities helped raise more than \$15 million at a televised fundraiser for victims of Taiwan’s worst storm in 50 years.

Typhoon Morakot killed more than 500 people after dumping more than 80 inches (2 meters) of rain on the island last weekend, triggering landslides and flooding villages in the mountainous south.

Li and fellow stars from Taiwan and Hong Kong, including actor Leon Lai and singer Andy Hui, appealed for donations at the charity show in Taipei late Friday, Hong Kong’s Oriental

Daily News reported on its Web site Saturday.

The show raised NT\$505 million (\$15.34 million), one of the organizers, Taiwanese broadcaster China Television Co. said in a news broadcast Saturday.

The report said Li pitched in 300,000 Chinese yuan (\$44,000).

Action star Jackie Chan did not attend but pledged NT\$10 million (\$304,000) and recorded a video calling for donations, according to The Sun.

Taiwanese first lady Chou Mei-ching joined celebrities in taking calls at the phone bank.

Producers evict Chima Simone from ‘Big Brother 11’

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Chima Simone is no longer in the “Big Brother” house.

CBS said producers removed the 33-year-old freelance journalist from the voyeuristic reality series for breaking the show’s rules. The network also said Simone will not be part of the jury that selects the \$500,000 grand prize winner.

“Chima has been evicted by the producers from the ‘Big Brother’ house for violating the rules,” CBS said in a statement released Saturday. “She will not be part of the show’s jury. Her eviction will be addressed on an upcoming broadcast of the show.”

A CBS spokeswoman did not immediately return messages seeking further comment.

Simone, from West Holly-

wood, Calif., was last seen on the show conjuring conspiracy theories after her ally, bodybuilder Jessie Godderz, was spontaneously nominated for eviction Thursday because of the “coup d’etat,” a power secretly voted on by viewers that was used to overthrow Simone’s nominations.

“Looks like me and the producers need to have a little bit of a talk,” she said.

Since entering the “Big Brother 11” house last month, Simone has been one of the season’s most outspoken houseguests. When she was nominated for eviction during the first week, CBS censored her live last-plea speech, which referenced derogatory terms used by her competitor.

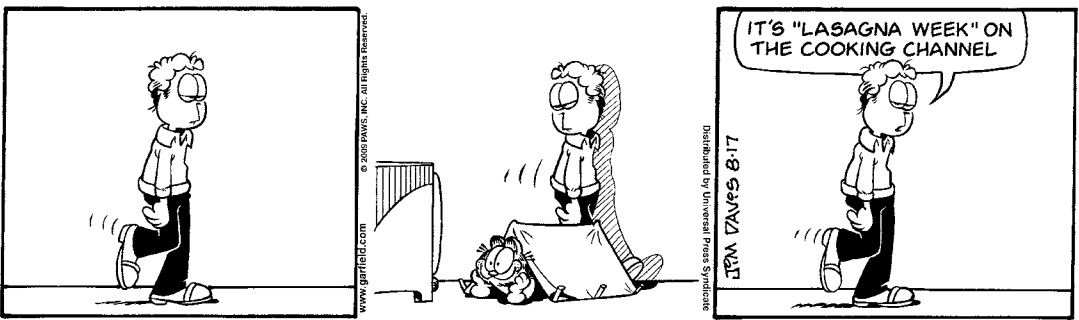
Seven contestants remain on “Big Brother 11.”

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes



Garfield®



Adam@home



The Duplex



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Trophy room, maybe

4 Recede

7 Bloke

11 Oil cartel

13 The Red or the Black

14 Inauguration

15 "Arrive-derci"

16 Faux —

17 Second-hand

18 Wash the pots

20 Potter's oven

22 Pinch

24 Its capital is Riga

28 Twisted treat

32 Existence

33 Ireland

34 Talk on and on

36 Get up

37 Blazing

39 Round pegs in square holes

DOWN

1 Medics

2 Grand tale

3 In the vicinity

4 Kreskin's claim

5 Duck's promise

6 Pesto ingredient

7 Makes money?

8 Owns

9 Noshed

10 Third degree?

12 Bedspreads

19 Occupation, for short

21 Science room

23 Mrs. Al Bundy

25 Henry —

26 "Meet Me — Louis"

27 Quite some time

28 Pinnacle

29 Wide-spread

30 Ontario neighbor

31 Flee from a crime scene

35 Morsel

38 "A mouse!"

40 Boar's mate

42 Clean the suds off

45 Back of the neck

47 Region

48 "Zounds!"

49 Siestas

50 Trot

51 Japanese sash

52 Charged particle

54 8 pts.

Solution time: 24 mins.

Saturday's answer 8-17

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Donnie Wahlberg, 40; Don McKellar, 46; Sean Penn, 49; Robert De Niro, 66

Happy Birthday: You can make some fast financial plays to help you get through tough times. Focus on tried-and-true budget strategies and before you know it you'll be back on track. You aren't likely to please everyone your decisions influence but, in the end, your creative accounting will pay off. An interesting partnership assessment will help you put your relationships with others in perspective. Your numbers are 4, 11, 13, 24, 39, 43, 48

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Approach personal matters with caution. Be clear about your expectations and how you intend to reach your goals. A relationship with someone who has been an integral part of your life will be of concern. **

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Pour your heart and soul into whatever needs to be done to make your home, family and domestic life better. It will be worth your while to make changes that accommodate the ones you love. Focus on what counts. ****

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Change is something you can't stop but you can adapt if you rely on your past experience. A money matter, if handled with class and ingenuity, will not be as costly as anticipated. Stick close to home and save money. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You'll have a hard time wading through any emotional debris. Focus on the here-and-

now and what you can do to make your life better. It's how you feel that counts. ***

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Your timing must be accurate if you want to make a fast maneuver that will bring people together. There is plenty to be secret about but, at the same time, plans must be made and goals set so that everyone is on the same page. ***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Your serious attitude and dedication to your beliefs and causes will set you apart. A change within a partnership will establish your position for the future. An astute assessment of what everyone else is doing will be your ticket to victory. ****

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You've got plenty to be thankful for but, if you rub someone the wrong way, you will end up in a situation that may derail your future plans. A trip and a face-to-face conversation will pay off. Authenticity will help you gather followers. **

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Put your heart on the line and speak emotionally about your plans. There is much to gain from sharing your ideas. Greater involvement with an organization of a serious nature will lead to an interesting partnership. *****

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Put a little effort into your home and you will avoid some of the criticism that awaits you should you ignore your responsibilities. A good idea will prevail if you talk over your plans with friends or family. ***

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): There are deals to be made and partnerships that can turn your efforts into something worthwhile. A strong coalition with a unique twist is all it will take to get things moving down a path that has plenty to offer financially and emotionally. ***

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): A few changes will be necessary if you want to get ahead professionally. A partnership offering you equality will be worth its weight in gold. Promote your talents and recognize what's being offered in return. ***

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You can attract interest both personally and professionally if you network with people from unique walks of life. The more intent you are at pulling things together and making things happen, the quicker you will see progress. *****

Birthday Baby: You are compassionate, caring and adaptable. You have a sense of justice and are serious, conservative and ready to lend a helping hand. Eugenia's Web sites: astroadvice.com for fun, eugenialast.com for confidential consultations

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

			1			8	6		
			7	5	9	1	3		
	5							7	
9	1		2		3		8		
	4						2		
	7		9		4		1	6	
	8							5	
			3	8	5	2	1		
			6	1			7		

Difficulty Level ★ 8/17

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

1	6	7	8	3	9	5	2	4
3	5	8	1	4	2	7	9	6
2	4	9	6	7	5	8	1	3
6	7	2	4	9	1	3	8	5
9	1	4	3	5	8	6	7	2
8	3	5	2	6	7	1	4	9
5	8	1	9	2	3	4	6	7
4	9	3	7	1	6	2	5	8
7	2	6	5	8	4	9	3	1

Difficulty Level ★★★★★ 8/15

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

ORIGINAL DISCOVERIES Solution: 9 letters

N	E	F	A	P	E	C	N	E	I	C	S	S	Q	E
E	O	V	R	D	L	O	R	E	B	B	U	R	U	I
P	E	T	I	A	S	A	D	R	A	D	A	R	A	N
T	N	S	W	T	N	R	S	C	B	E	L	L	S	S
U	O	S	A	E	O	K	I	T	Y	T	F	L	A	T
N	H	W	S	F	N	M	L	D	I	H	E	A	R	E
E	P	R	O	T	O	N	O	I	R	C	T	E	S	I
V	E	C	L	T	I	O	P	C	N	O	S	R	D	N
O	L	Y	A	W	G	R	X	A	O	E	N	O	A	M
L	E	E	R	L	O	A	R	Y	A	L	I	R	I	E
U	T	A	B	O	C	F	L	R	G	D	O	E	M	T
T	D	M	F	O	E	U	C	I	A	E	N	P	L	R
I	T	A	L	Y	N	H	L	R	L	E	N	A	E	I
O	G	R	E	B	N	E	T	U	G	E	Y	P	R	C
N	D	E	S	C	A	R	T	E	S	U	O	M	A	F

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Atomic, Bell, Calculus, Daimler, Darwin, Descartes, Earth, Edison, Einstein, Evolution, Famous, Flat, Ford, France, Franklin, Galileo, Gene, Goodyear, Gutenberg, Italy, Laws, Locomotive, Metric, Neptune, Newton, Nobel, Oxygen, Paper, Plastics, Proof, Proton, Quasars, Radar, Radio, Real, Research, Rubber, Science, Solar, Telephone, Theory, Watson
Last Saturday's Answer: Vehicles
Treasury 5 or 7 Send check or money order for \$10.95 each plus \$3.25 postage and handling each \$14.20 total each, U.S. funds only for the first volume, \$1.50 plus for each additional volume, to Universal Press Syndicate, Attn: Wonderword, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, Mo. 64106 or call toll-free, 1-800-542-6480 Order online at upuzzles.com.

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pro se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In Re The Matter Of The)
Petition To Appoint)
General Guardianship)
For:)
BARBARA ANN)
KRISTELE L.)
SARMIENTO,)
Minor Child,)
By:)
BLAS T. MAFNAS,)
Petitioner.)

FCD GU
Civil Action
No. 09-0465

NOTICE
OF
HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on October 5, 2009, at 1:30 p.m. in Courtroom 205, before Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo.

Dated this 7th day of August, 2009.

/s/ Bernadita A. Sablan
Clerk of Court

CARLSMITH BALL LLP
VINCENT J. SEMAN, F0361
Carlsmith Building, Capitol Hill
P.O. Box 5241
Saipan, MP 96950-5241
Tel No. 670.322.3455

Attorneys for Plaintiff
Bank of Hawaii

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF HAWAII,)
Plaintiff,)
vs.)
RICARDO R. RASA and)
MATILDE H. BERMUDEZ,)
Defendants.)

CIVIL ACTION NO. 08-0395

NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order of Sale issued by the Court in this matter on April 28, 2009, I will sell, at public auction to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property:

Lot 010 K 28, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 10 K 01, the original of which was recorded 19 AUG 87 as Document No. 87-2909 at Commonwealth Recorder's, Saipan

Date, Time and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on September 9, 2009, at the hour of 11:00 a.m., at Carlsmith Ball LLP, Carlsmith Building, Isa Drive, Capitol Hill, P.O. Box 5241, Saipan, MP 96950-5241. The sale will be opened to general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED: Saipan, MP, August 13, 2009.

/s/ Vincent J. Seman
VINCENT J. SEMAN, F0361
Attorneys for Plaintiff

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Foregone conclusion

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GREGORY J. KOEBEL, Esq., - F0177
O'CONNOR BERMAN DOTTS & BANES
Second Floor, Marianas Business Plaza
P.O. Box 501969
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone No. (670) 234-5684
Facsimile No. (670) 234-5683

Attorneys for Plaintiff
Bank of Guam

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF GUAM,)
Plaintiff,)
VS.)
CELESTE S. MENDIOLA,)
Defendant.)

CIVIL ACTION NO. 08-0390

AMENDED SUMMONS

TO DEFENDANT CELESTE S. MENDIOLA:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file with the Clerk of Court for the CNMI Superior Court, any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, within twenty-one (21) days after the fourth publication of this Amended Summons, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to Atty. Gregory J. Koebel, Law firm of O'Connor Berman Dotts & Banes, Attorney for Plaintiff, at the 2nd floor, Marianas Business Plaza, P.O. Box 501969, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of this Court for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to file an Answer in accordance with this Amended Summons, judgment by default will be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

Dated this day of 23rd day of July, 2009.

/s/ Clerk of Court

THIRD OF FOUR ISSUES

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Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

12356789 END

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Find today's solution in this section

 **Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems, Inc. (NMPASI)**

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

The Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems, Inc. (NMPASI), the state-designated agency for protection and advocacy services on behalf of individuals with disabilities, seeks to hire a qualified individual as follows:

POSITION TITLE:	LEGAL COUNSEL
PAY-LEVEL:	P.L. 28 / STEP 1-10
PER ANNUM SALARY:	\$ 40, 017 - \$62, 080
REPORTS TO:	Program Manager
LOCATION:	NMPASI Office – Saipan

GENERAL JOB DESCRIPTION:

This is an exempt professional responsible for providing legal services to eligible clients and for supervising other program personnel assigned to provide lay-advocacy for individuals with disabilities. The Legal Counsel will be selected by a panel of NMPASI personnel and will report to the Program Manager. The Legal Counsel works under limited supervision within prescribed NMPASI standards, policies and procedures with considerable latitude for independent action and decisions.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:

Graduation from a U.S. accredited college or university with a Juris Doctorate degree;

Admitted to Practice Law in the United States District Court of the Northern Mariana Islands; the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, and Supreme Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

HOW TO APPLY:

Interested applicants may pick up a complete job description and application forms at the NMPASI office located on Middle Road approximately 100 yards north of the Gualo Rai traffic light intersection. Completed application packets must be submitted to the NMPASI Executive Director at the NMPASI Office ***no later than 5:00pm on August 20, 2009.*** In order for applications to be considered, they must include (1) a Cover Letter, (2) Resume, (3) Completed Application forms, and (4) a Police Clearance. Incomplete applications and/or applications which do not demonstrate that the applicant meets minimum qualifications as listed above or do not meet the deadline for submittal will not be considered. For further information, please feel free to contact Mr. James Rayphand at (670) 235-7273/4 [voice] / 235-7278[ttty] or email at nmpasi@pticom.com.

NMPASI is an EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER.

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 7-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as \$25 per 3 liner ad for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of below packages that fits your budget.

ADS (7DAYS)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	\$25
• 5-Liner	\$35
• 3-Liner with picture	\$45
• 5-Liner with picture	\$55

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- Saipan Tribune: All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

Tiger claws out a 2-shot lead at the PGA



CHASKA, Minn. (AP)—The coronation of Tiger Woods turned into a contest Saturday at the PGA Championship.

What had looked so inevitable—Woods with a four-shot lead on the weekend at a major—suddenly became filled with possibilities as his margin vanished along the back nine at Hazeltine.

Only a late birdie by Woods and a lone bogey from Padraig Harrington gave the final major a familiar look.

Woods, playing it safe to avoid throwing away shots, wound up with a 1-under 71 and had a two-shot lead over Harrington and Y.E. Yang. That left Woods one round away from capturing his 15th major, with more company than anyone expected.

“The narrower the gap, the better,” Harrington said.

But it's still a gap. The advantage still belongs to Woods.

He has never lost a major when he was leading going into the final round.

Only once in his career - nine years ago - had he lost any tournament when leading by two shots or more.

His conservative play allowed his lead to be cut in half. Woods found little wrong with that.

“I didn't give myself a lot of looks at putts,” he said. “I was lag putting a lot. Given the conditions and my position in the tournament, I didn't mind it.”

The only fist pump Woods delivered on a blustery afternoon came on the short par-4 14th. He hit 3-wood to the back of the green, chipped so poorly that it ran through the green and against the collar, then used the blade of his sand wedge to knock in a 15-foot birdie putt that allowed him to regain the lead.

He finished at 8-under 208, ending his round just as the rain arrived in Minnesota for the first time all week.

Harrington surged into a share of the lead with four birdies over an eight-hole stretch in the middle of the round, catching Woods with a 7-foot birdie



Tiger Woods reacts to his birdie chip shot on the 14th hole during the third round of the 91st PGA Championship at the Hazeltine National Golf Club in Chaska, Minn., Saturday, Aug. 15, 2009.

putt on the 14th. Right when it appeared they would be in the final pairing for the second straight week, the Irishman made his only bogey on the third round on the last hole by hitting over the green.

He wound up with a 69, and much greater hopes of defending his PGA title.

“If I have to take four shots and I've taken two the first day, I suppose we're halfway there,” Harrington said. “Obviously, to get a win, you've got to beat him by three tomorrow. That's a tall order. But as I said, everybody in the situation who is behind is going to think, ‘Well, we have nothing to lose.’ You've

Vick joins Eagles at practice and is throwing hard



PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Michael Vick flicked his wrist and fired tight spirals deep downfield.

A two-year layoff sure didn't hurt Vick's arm strength. He showed off his skills Saturday in his first NFL practice with the Philadelphia Eagles since completing his prison sentence.

“He throws the ball as hard as anybody I've ever seen,” said wide receiver Danny Amendola, a second-year pro who spent last season on the Dallas Cowboys' practice squad.

Wearing a No. 7 red quarterback's jersey, Vick took part in limited drills with the offense. He worked in one-on-ones, seven-on-sevens and red zone offense. Vick mostly observed Donovan McNabb during the two-hour session.

When he got a chance on the field, the 29-year-old quarterback made the most of it. He had plenty of zip behind his throws and completed a few deep balls, including one to rookie wideout Jeremy Maclin down the sideline.

Vick put in extra time after practice, working on footwork and mechanics with offensive coordinator Marty Mornhinweg. He was the last player to leave the field, jogging off with his

helmet still on.

Asked how he felt, Vick replied: “Great.”

Vick didn't speak to the large contingent of reporters around his mostly empty locker. As he finished taking off his ankle braces, Vick drew a chuckle when he said: “This is weird.”

Vick was the fourth quarterback to line up under center in the early portion of the practice. Vick took only one snap and completed his first pass over the middle against no defense. He playfully pumped his fist before McNabb, who lobbied the Eagles to sign Vick, and gave him a hug.

In the morning walkthrough, Vick worked with the scout team offense.

“We have to get him in football shape,” Eagles coach Andy Reid said. Reid said Vick was fit enough to handle an NFL practice and the team would bring him along accordingly.

Vick practiced only at quarterback in the morning session, Reid said.

“That's what Michael is,” he said. “Michael's a quarterback.”

A three-time Pro Bowl pick during six seasons with the Atlanta Falcons, Vick served 18 months in federal prison for running a dogfighting ring and was reinstated last month by NFL commis-

sioner Roger Goodell after being out of action since 2006.

He signed a one-year deal with the Eagles on Thursday for \$1.6 million with a team option for a second year at \$5.2 million.

With McNabb entrenched as the starter and Kevin Kolb backing him up, Vick may be used more as a gimmick player than a traditional quarterback. He's got the athletic skills to run the Wildcat formation.

“There's always the possibility you can do something,” Reid said.

Vick always has been far more inclined to take off and run than stay in the pocket and find an open receiver. His career completion percentage is 53.8 percent, among the lowest for a starting NFL quarterback. He has 71 career touchdown passes, but 52 interceptions.

Vick has more career 100-yard rushing games (8) than 250-yard passing games (6).

Aiding his return to the NFL is the fact he'll be learning an Eagles' West Coast offense similar to what he ran in Atlanta.

“He's very fortunate he knows the foundation of this offense. That will speed things up,” Reid said.

got to have that attitude.”

Harrington's bogey put him at 6-under 210 and in the second-to-last group.

Woods will play with Yang, who matched the best round of the tournament with a 67. Yang won his first PGA Tour event earlier this year at the Honda Classic, although the 37-year-old from South Korea is better known for taking down Woods at the HSBC Champions in China three years ago.

They weren't playing in the same group in 2006, however. And this will be Yang's first time contending in a major.

“It will be my first time playing with him, so I'll try not to go over par,” he said with a smile. “But I've been looking forward to it. I've thought about playing with Tiger recently. Surprised it came true so fast.”

Woods' four-shot lead was his largest in a major after 36 holes since he led by four at St. Andrews in 2005. Just like that British Open, his margin was cut to two shots going into the final round.

Suddenly, there are other challengers to try to stop Woods from winning his 15th career major, and first of the year.

Henrik Stenson, who captured The Players Championship in May, had a 68 and was in the group at 4-under 212 along with U.S. Open champion Lucas Glover (71).

Ernie Els pulled within one shot of the lead until he finished with three straight bogeys, leaving him with a 70

and five shots behind. He was disgusted with the end of his round, although the Big Easy spoke for so many others about the outlook Sunday.

Woods has never been beaten at a major when leading. But at least they have a chance.

“You could really feel that there's a real championship going on around you,” Els said. “It's not a runaway deal. Looked like a runaway thing at the end of yesterday. But it looks like the guys are really set to give Tiger a go, and the crowd could sense that.”

Woods, however, has a major advantage.

He has never lost in America when leading by more than one shot, and the only time anyone beat him from that position was Ed Fiori at the 1996 Quad City Classic, when Woods was a 20-year-old playing his third event as a pro.

Lee Westwood came from two shots behind to beat Woods in the Deutsche Bank-SAP Open in Germany in 2000.

Woods appeared to be on his way when he stuffed a short iron into 4 feet for birdie on the second hole. Then came a three-putt bogey on the par-3 fourth, which he left woefully short. He missed the fairway on three par 5s, which he could have reached in two from the fairway. Instead, he was aiming away from trouble, not willing to give away shots.

Bolt, Gay cruise into semifinals of 100m



BERLIN (AP)—Smiling and joking, Usain Bolt cruised into the

semifinals of the 100 meters of the world championships.

Sprinting in earnest to test his groin, Tyson Gay did the same, setting up the prospect of a showdown in Sunday's final.

Bolt, the three-time Olympic champion from Jamaica, and Gay, the three-time world champion from the United States, proved they are in shape for the most anticipated race of the year.

Gay won his quarterfinal in 9.98 seconds, and Bolt cruised in at 10.03, finishing second in his heat.

After Asafa Powell flirted with elimination in the opening heat, he was all focus in the evening, clocking the fastest qualifying time of the quarterfinals with a run of 9.95, proving the pace of both the track at the Olympic Stadium and the quality of competition.

Just showing up, Bolt was the star of the day, bobbing and weaving his head, playing it up for the camera, and pointing to an adoring crowd. The most fun came during race.

He eased up at the halfway mark to see his training partner Daniel Bailey beside him and happily let him take the honor of winning in 10.02.

Gay had a slow start and needed to kick harder.

“My groin is pretty sore,” he said.

Still, the American didn't think it would affect his speed Sunday. After limiting training over the past week, he was moving as well as ever.

“I haven't even worked on my starts yet,” Gay said. “So to run that fast felt good.”

Once he got going, his stride showed why the big matchup on

Sunday could become so memorable. The duel between the exuberant Jamaican and the American is seen as the biggest event of the nine-day championships.

Powell redeemed himself after he eased up in his opening heat and only qualified by 0.02 seconds.

“I was running too easy. I underestimated the guys,” Powell said. “It's kind of scary.”

The former world record holder is only competing at the worlds because the IAAF insisted that the Jamaican team could not cut him because he did not attend a mandatory training camp.

Dwain Chambers of Britain, who tested positive for the steroid THG in 2003 and served a two-year doping suspension, won his quarterfinal heat in 10.04.

Just after the 100, the women's 10,000 was decided by fractions of seconds.

Linnet Masai of Kenya broke Ethiopia's decade-long hold on the race with a blistering finishing kick that took a prematurely celebrating Meselech Melkamu by surprise. Masai finished in 30 minutes, 51.24 seconds to win by 0.10 seconds.

Ethiopia got bronze, too, with Wude Ayalew crossing third.

Pre-race favorite Meseret Defar ended up fifth after she almost came to a halt over the last meters despite leading into the final straight.

Christian Cantwell of the United States won the shot put title, beating Olympic champion Tomasz Majewski of Poland with a throw of 72 feet, 3 inches. Majewski took silver at 71-10 3/4 and Ralf Bartels earned the first medal for host nation Germany with a 70-1 1/2 effort. Defending champion Reese Hoffa of the U.S. was fourth.

Braves overcome Phillies to tighten NL East



ATLANTA (AP)—

The Atlanta Braves got two runs in the bottom of the ninth inning to beat the Philadelphia Phillies 4-3 on Saturday, tightening their playoff race in the National League.

Garret Anderson led off the ninth with a single. Matt Diaz's sacrifice was fumbled by Phillies closer Brad Lidge, who then threw wildly toward first base, with the ball careering out to right field as Anderson rounded the bases for home and Diaz got to third.

Two intentional walks loaded the bases, and Omar Infante singled to left field to drive in the winning run.

The Braves moved within five games of NL-East leading Philadelphia, and three games off the wild card spot.

"I got to the ball and I was thinking about maybe throwing it to second base," the closer said. "I just bobbled it. Then the play was at first and I just threw it away."

Lidge converted all 41 of his save opportunities last season and went 7 for 7 in the postseason to help Philadelphia win the World Series. He said all the breaks that fell his way last year are now falling for the other team.

"Right now my stuff is as good as it's been in two years," Lidge said. "I'm trying to go after guys. That ball (Infante) hit, he didn't hit it good but it found a hole. It's been happening. That's just the way it's been going."

Lidge, who has a 7.27 ERA, acknowledged he couldn't blame the loss only on bad breaks.

"I'm mad at myself for throwing the ball away," he said. "I hurried the throw. You make your own luck in this game. I don't believe in bad luck."

Phillies manager Charlie Manuel called Lidge "our closer" and said "we've got confidence in him."

"At the same time, we definitely want to win our games, of course," Manuel said.

When Diaz saw the throw from Lidge bounce past Ryan Howard at first base, he said his first thought was "Don't pass out and remember to breathe."

"I saw the ball get past Ryan and I looked and it checked up against the wall, so I knew I'd be going to third or trying for third," Diaz said.

Diaz scored easily when Infante's single bounced into left field.

"It just goes to show you what happens when you put some pressure on a defense and a pitcher," Atlanta slugger Chipper Jones. "They're the World Series champs. That's a very good, fundamentally sound ballclub with speed, power and pitching. You have got to play good in order to beat them. They don't give you games. So we feel fortunate about this one."

Diamondbacks 4, Dodgers 3, 10 innings

At Phoenix, Gerardo Parra's bases-loaded single in the bottom of the tenth gave Arizona victory over a stumbling Los Angeles.

The Dodgers gave up back-to-back homers in the ninth inning to allow the Diamondbacks to draw level and force extra innings.

Los Angeles pitcher Hiroki Kuroda was hit in the head by a line drive in the sixth inning. He was carted off on a stretcher and taken to hospital for tests.

The win gave Arizona consecutive home series victories for the first time



Atlanta Braves starter Kenshin Kawakami, of Japan, delivers to the Philadelphia Phillies during the first inning of a baseball game, Saturday, Aug. 15, 2009, at Turner Field in Atlanta.

this season.

Giants 5, Mets 4, 10 innings

At New York, a pitching duel turned ugly when New York slugger David Wright was hit in the head by a pitch before San Francisco won in extra innings.

Giants pitcher Matt Cain and fellow All-Star Johan Santana of New York were locked in a scoreless matchup until the fourth inning, when Cain nailed Wright with a 94 mph (151 kph) fastball. Wright was taken to hospital and treated for concussion.

Seemingly rattled, Cain gave up a run before settling down and pitching into the eighth, when the Mets tied it at 4-4.

San Francisco's Bengie Molina, who'd been hit by Santana in retaliation, led off the 10th with a homer and the Giants hung on for a win that moved them within a game of the wild card berth.

Cardinals 7, Padres 4

At St. Louis, Matt Holliday hit a two-run homer to help St. Louis beat San Diego.

Holliday is batting .475 with five homers and 22 RBIs in 20 games since he joined the Cardinals from Oakland.

St. Louis has won seven of eight and is a season-high 14 games over .500, maintaining a 4-1/2 game lead in the NL Central.

Cardinals pitcher Joel Pineiro extended his winning streak to five, pitching 6 2-3 innings, allowing three runs.

Brewers 6, Astros 2

At Milwaukee, veteran Craig Counsell

drove in three runs in Milwaukee's victory over Houston.

Milwaukee has won three straight for the first time since mid-June while Houston has lost five of six, creating a 2-1/2 game gap between the two fringe NL Central playoff contenders.

Mike Burns pitched seven solid innings for the Brewers, giving up only four hits and striking out seven.

Counsell had a pair of singles and a triple, and is 9 for 19 against Houston this year.

Cubs 3, Pirates 1

At Chicago, Tom Gorzelanny pitched five effective innings against his former team as Chicago downed Pittsburgh.

Gorzelanny allowed only one run and struck out eight. He also singled in a run in the second inning.

Gorzelanny was demoted from Pittsburgh's starting rotation last year, then stayed at the minor-league Indianapolis Indians until he was traded to Chicago at the end of last month.

Jeff Baker homered for the Cubs.

Nationals 10, Reds 6

At Cincinnati, Adam Dunn hit his first homer against his former team, leading Washington over Cincinnati.

Dunn led off the second with his 31st homer of the season, walked twice and scored two runs for the Nationals, who led 10-1 after four innings.

White Sox 8, Athletics 1

At Oakland, Jayson Nix homered and drove in three runs and Gavin Floyd pitched seven strong innings as the

Chicago White Sox beat the Oakland Athletics 8-1 in the American League on Saturday.

Jim Thome hit his 563rd homer while Gordon Beckham added a two-run single in the sixth, when Chicago scored three runs to break the game open.

Floyd has pitched well at home and struggled on the road this season, but he scattered eight hits and limited the damage with eight strikeouts.

Adam Kennedy tied his career high with five hits for Oakland.

Indians 7, Twins 3

At Minneapolis, Shin-Soo Choo and Grady Sizemore hit early homers to lead Cleveland to victory.

Choo started the second with a drive that ended Cleveland's homerless streak at 38 innings. Sizemore did the same in the third, his shot to center barely eluding the outstretched glove of Carlos Gomez. The Indians led 7-0 after five innings.

Joe Mauer had three more hits for Minnesota, extending his hitting streak to 12 games and raising his league-leading average to .378 with a ninth-inning homer, his 22nd. Justin Morneau hit an RBI double during a two-run rally in the fifth that was too little too late.

Angels 5, Orioles 1

At Baltimore, John Lackey allowed one run in seven innings as Los Angeles spoiled the Camden Yards debut of rookie pitcher Brian Matusz.

Chone Figgins had three hits, a walk and a stolen base for the Angels, who are 20-8 since the All-Star break. They

improved to 6-2 against Baltimore and clinched the season series.

The Angels scored all their runs in the third inning against Matusz, using three hits, three walks and an error. It proved to be enough support for Lackey (8-5), who was 5-1 with a 1.89 ERA over his last seven starts.

Rays 8, Blue Jays 3

At St. Petersburg, Florida, Carl Crawford hit a two-run double during a four-run third, and Scott Kazmir pitched well enough to help Tampa Bay end a five-game losing run.

Jason Bartlett hit an RBI single, Crawford drove in two with his double and Evan Longoria had a run-scoring double off Brian Tallet (5-7) as Tampa Bay took a 4-2 lead in the third.

Kazmir (7-7) gave up three runs and five hits with seven strikeouts in 6 1-3 innings.

Aaron Hill hit his 28th homer of the season for Toronto.

Tigers 10, Royals 3

At Detroit, Carlos Guillen homered and drove in four runs, and Miguel Cabrera hit a two-run shot and finished with four hits to lead Detroit to its third straight win.

Ramon Santiago and Alex Avila also homered for Detroit, which finished with 16 hits. Edwin Jackson (9-5) allowed three runs and nine hits in six innings.

Billy Butler connected for a two-run shot in the first and Brayan Pena added a solo shot in the sixth for Kansas City. Luke Hochevar (6-6) pitched four-plus innings, giving up six runs and a career-high 12 hits.

Yankees 5, Mariners 2

At Seattle, Nick Swisher hit a two-run homer in New York's four-run second inning and the surging Yankees beat the sloppy Seattle Mariners 5-2 on Saturday for their 12th win in 13 games.

Derek Jeter drove in two runs for New York during a sharp 2-for-4 night, going deep in the ninth inning to tie Omar Vizquel for second on the career list with 2,672 hits as a shortstop. The Yankees captain is one behind Luis Aparicio for the top spot.

Backup catcher Jose Molina also had an RBI single for New York, which made the most of a miscommunication between outfielders Franklin Gutierrez and Ichiro Suzuki during its big second inning.

With Alex Rodriguez back in the lineup, the AL East-leading Yankees picked up their fifth consecutive win.

Rangers 7, Red Sox 2

At Arlington, Julio Borbon and Elvis Andrus wreaked havoc when they were on the basepaths last year in the minors. Now they're causing problems for opposing catchers in the majors.

Borbon had four hits and four of Texas' eight stolen bases, Andrus swiped three more and the Rangers cut Boston's AL wild-card lead to a half-game with a 7-2 victory over the Red Sox.

"We were trouble last year," said Andrus, who has 23 stolen bases for Texas this season. "We're not afraid. That's what we like to do. Anytime we get on base, our goal is to get another base. That's our game."

The club-record eight stolen bases matched the most in the majors this season. Boston also allowed eight against Tampa Bay on May 3. The Rangers had six steals against the Red Sox on July 22.

Wang wins August women's golf tourney



Ching Lin Wang topped the CNMI Women's Golf Association tournament after logging in a net 71 on Aug. 9 at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort west course.

Wang fired identical net scores of 43 in the front and back nines for a gross score of 86, which after her 15 handicap was deducted gave her the score to beat.

Yuko Togawa settled for second place despite carding the lowest gross score of the tourney. She came away with a 38 and 30 in the front and

back nines, respectively, for a pre net score of 78.

Togawa, however, also had a low handicap of six that resulted in her getting a 72 net, a stroke behind Wang's 71.

Lorraine Babauta settled for third place with her net 74, built around a 44-41 in the front and back nines. The 11-handicapper scored a gross of 85. Fourth place went to Grace Wang with her net 75 (47-44, 91 gross).

Shiori Onoue and Ayako Matsumoto complete the Top 6 with their similar 76s. Onoue reached her's with her line of 41-41, 82 gross, and 6 handicap.

A total of 21 members of CWGA took part in the August competition. The rest of the players, with their net scores, in parenthesis were as follows: Kim Yang (77), Pil Sun Kitami (77), Sherlyn Jones (78), Eun Aue Chang (80), Dolores Yamagashi (80), Noriko Togawa (81), Yang A Kyung (81), Kimiko Abe (81), Sujie Guzman (82), Masayo Miyamoto (86), Seo Ran Kyung (87), Bennet Se-man (87), Terue Ukita (88), and Lourdes Kim (98). New member Jeon Young In had a gross score of 87 but has yet to be assigned a handicap.

(Mark Rabago)



Participants of the CNMI Women's Golf Association pose for a photo after their August tournament at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort.

SIP

From Page 28

to double-digits, 84-74.

Another NMBA missed offensive set returned the ball to SIP and Mendoza canned a triple from the left key to pad the lead to 13, 87-74, entering the final two minutes of the match.

The remaining minutes of the game saw NMBA fouling SIP to stop the clock and hope for

missed free throws. However, SIP went 7-for-10 from the foul line to keep the win. Tania drilled four charities, Mendoza went 2-for-2, and Esdrelon split his free throws.

Mendoza, who missed a couple of games in the regular season, top-scored for SIP with 22 points, while Esdrelon finished with 15 markers. Tania had 12, making eight in the final quarter.

Aquino and Pagarao paced

NMBA with 22 points apiece.

NMBA advanced to the semis after slipping past Samahang Mangagawang Filipino in the first round of the single-elimination playoffs, 100-93 before losing to SIP in the semis.

SIP gained a semis entry after downing Cabalen, 115-95 and the semis win against NMBA kept the former's winning streak. The defending champion has been undefeated for three months now since losing its de-

but game against MDX-Chow Queen during the league's opening. SIP, which finished the regular season with a 5-1 slate, will face in the finals the winner of the semifinals game between MDX-Chow Queen and Bayani. MDX and Bayani were dueling for the last semis ticket last night, but results of the match were unavailable at press time.

The University of Loyola-Raffy's Diner-backed Boho-

lanos and NMBA-Ebisuya also played last night with the winner getting the first finals seat in the masters division. The other semis pairing will pit pennant champion Bayani-Shirley's against Cabalen.

drelon 15, Tania 12, Guiab 10, Factor 9, Mendiola 8, Camacho 7, Punzalan 7, Lauron 4, Fernandez 2, Mateo 2.

NMBA 87 - Aquino 22, Pag-arao 22, Estolas 13, Villarin 10, Gapor 6, Umali 5, Opone 4, De Guzman 2, Rebuyon 2.

Scoring by quarters: 19-17, 39-36, 63-59, 98-87.

KENTY

From Page 28

and the Marshall Islands' Phillip Poznanski (11.97).

The U.S.' Tyson Gay recorded the best time in 12 heats, as he finished the qualifying race on Heat 11 with a time of 10.16 seconds. The three-time World champion Gay later advanced to the semifinals, joining three-time Olympic

winner Usain Bolt of Jamaica. Gay timed in at 9.98 seconds in the quarterfinals, while Bolt submitted 10.03 seconds.

Meanwhile, Yvonne Bennett was scheduled to compete in the women's 100m qualifying race at 12pm yesterday (Berlin time), but results were unavailable at press time.

The Kagman High School graduate, who is on her second World Championships appearance after making it to the

same event in 2007 in Osaka, Japan, is on Heat 1 with seven other sprinters.

Bennett is in the company of Brazil's Lucimar Aparecida de Moura, Colombia's Yomara Hinestroza, Jamaica's Shelly Ann Fraser, Germany's Marion Wagner, Gabon's Paulette Zang Milama, and Singapore's Balpreet Kaur Purba. Fraser holds the fastest qualifying time in the group with her 10.88 seconds.

Bennett's personal best time is 12.99 seconds, which is also the CNMI National Record and the fastest time in Micronesia in the women's division. Bennett logged the CNMI mark during the 2008 Oceania Area Championships held on Saipan in June.

Accompanying Bennett and Kenty in Berlin is Northern Marianas Athletics president Kurt Barnes, who also attended the 47th IAAF Congress in the German capital.

FAJARDO

From Page 28

nal ball but missed on a difficult crossed corner bank shot.

Fajardo made the most of his opportunity as his tough long shot found the bottom of the pocket. He then sunk the 8-ball to force a second and deciding match.

Villanueva broke on the second game but failed to pocket any balls.

Fajardo followed and managed to pocket three balls before misfiring.

Despite having seven balls left on the table, Villanueva could only come up with a thin cut on one of them.

That gave Fajardo the chance to show off his improved shot-making ability, as he sank his remaining subject balls and the 8-ball with perfect execution to top the weekly 8-ball competition.

Fajardo earned \$70 for the win, while Villanueva and Zheng Jian Qing took home \$40 and \$20, respectively.

Other players who took part in the 8-ball competition were Chester Hamoy, Roger Espiritu, Dean Borja, Nolan Cultura, Bradley Demapan, Juancho Mendoza, Robert Sanciango, Rick Villanueva, Joey Lucido, and Senen Pangilinan.

The Top Pool Bar 8-Ball Bil-

liards Tournament is held every Saturday and adopts a double-elimination format with a maximum of 16 players.

The entrance fee is \$10 and the tournament uses the rules of the Billiards Congress of America. Practice is free between 7pm to 8pm on game day.

For more information on the Top Pool Bar 8-Ball Billiards Tournament, call manager Zheng Jian Qing at 287-7676.

CNMI

From Page 28

The CNMI's Jodel Fernandez and Theecl Minor are entered in the girls' 18-and-under competition, along with North teammate Abigail Gbewonyo of Palau.

POJC returnees Christian Miller and Rafael Jones will be competing in the boys' 14-and-under division and will be joined by Guam's Cory Morrison.

CNMI coach Jeff Race, who is accompanying the Commonwealth's players in Fiji, expects Miller and Jones to make it to the Final Four after showing significant improvement this year.

Race also has high expectations on Thea Minor in the girls' 14-and-under division. Minor

finished third last year and Race would not be surprised if the Grace Christian Academy student make it to the finals and even win the singles title.

The CNMI coach is also pinning his hopes on Melody Johnson, who Race said could pull off a big upset in the girls' 14-and-under division.

The North Pacific Team will collide with selected players from the East and West squads. The overall championship will be based on how players from each region finished in their respective age group competitions.

The West Pacific Team, which had its qualifier in Fiji from May 4 to 8, will have Devin Khatri, Geordie Daulaca, and Devrath Narayan of Fiji, and Robin Morove of

Papua New Guinea playing in the boys' 14-and-under division. Its girls' 14-and-under squad is composed of Annie Shannon and Tarani Kamoe of Fiji, Lorraine Banimatoku of Vanuatu, and Lorish Puluspene of PNG.

The West's boys' 18-and-under has Gregory Jacobe of Vanuatu, Luke Paeni of the Solomon Islands and Diva Reddy and Chris Hargrove of Fiji as players. In the girls' 18-and-under, the West will be represented by Marcia Tere-Apisah of PNG, Zinnia Leamana and Amanda Korinihona of the Solomon Islands, and Adalyn Hazelman of Fiji.

American Samoa hosted the East qualifying from July 13 to 17 and had 15 players making it to the team. They are boys

14's Ngana Nicholas and Alex Beddoes of Cook Islands, Chris Ducknak of American Samoa and Laeon Simpson of Samoa; girls 14's Isabella Carruthers and Natassla Peters of Samoa, Simuoko Afemui of Tonga, and Charity Sagiao of American Samoa;

Boys' 18-and-under's Joseph Meredith of Samoa, Elias Tukarao and Fred Pickering of the Cook Islands, and Chris Sami of American Samoa; and the girls 18-and-under's Leilanie Duchnak and Angie Roberts of American Samoa and Sharla Rankin of Samoa.

Tahiti and New Caledonia players will join the West, East, and North's bets in the six-day tournament, but only the three regions will fight for the overall championships.

Open

SIP 98 - Mendoza 22, Es-



TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	74	43	.632	—
Boston	66	50	.569	7 1/2
Tampa Bay	62	54	.534	11 1/2
Toronto	55	60	.478	18
Baltimore	48	68	.414	25 1/2

Central Division

Detroit	62	54	.534	—
Chicago	60	57	.513	2 1/2
Minnesota	56	60	.483	6
Cleveland	50	66	.431	12
Kansas City	45	71	.388	17

West Division

Los Angeles	69	45	.605	—
Texas	65	50	.565	4 1/2
Seattle	60	57	.513	10 1/2
Oakland	51	65	.440	19

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Philadelphia	65	49	.570	—
Florida	62	54	.534	4
Atlanta	61	55	.526	5
New York	54	62	.466	12
Washington	42	75	.359	24 1/2

Central Division

St. Louis	66	52	.559	—
Chicago	60	55	.522	4 1/2
Milwaukee	58	58	.400	7
Houston	56	61	.479	9 1/2
Cincinnati	50	66	.431	15
Pittsburgh	46	60	.397	19

West Division

Los Angeles	69	48	.590	—
Colorado	64	52	.552	4/12
San Francisco	63	53	.543	5 1/2
Arizona	54	63	.462	15
San Diego	49	69	.415	20 1/2

Yesterday's Games

Atlanta 4, Philadelphia 3

Arizona 4, LA Dodgers 3

San Francisco 5, NY Mets 4

St. Louis 5, San Diego 4

Milwaukee 6, Houston 2

Chi Cubs 3, Pittsburgh 1

Washington 10, Cincinnati 6

Chi Whit Sox 8, Oakland 1,

Cleveland 7, Minnesota 3

LA Angels 5, Baltimore 1

Tampa Bay 8, Toronto 3

Detroit 10, Kansas City 3

NY Yankees 5, Seattle 2

Texas 7, Boston 2

US PGA CHAMPIONSHIP SCORES

CHASKA, Minnesota (AP)—Scores Saturday from the US PGA Championship, a \$7.5 million major at 7,674-yard, par-72 Hazeltine National Golf Club:

Tiger Woods	67-70-71	208
Y.E. Yang	73-70-67	210
Padraig Harrington	68-73-69	210
Henrik Stenson	73-71-68	212

Lucas Glover

Soren Kjeldsen

Ernie Els

Alvaro Quiros

John Rollins

Martin Kaymer

Ross Fisher

Brendan Jones

Stephen Ames

Rory McIlroy

Corey Pavin

Tim Clark

Lee Westwood

Steve Flesch

Francesco Molinari

Graeme McDowell

David Toms

Vijay Singh

Zach Johnson

Ben Crane

Michael Allen

Retief Goosen

Scott McCarron

Anthony Kim

Charl Schwartzel

Stewart Cink

Oliver Wilson

Dustin Johnson

Hiroyuki Fujita

Ben Curtis

K.J. Choi

Hunter Mahan

John Merrick

Ian Poulter

Boo Weekley

Kevin Na

Miguel Angel Jimenez

Thongchai Jaidee

Woody Austin

Kevin Sutherland

Robert Allenby

Chad Campbell

Gonzalo Fernandez-Castano

John Mallinger

Jim Furyk

Fred Couples

Luke Donald

Justin Leonard

Jeev Milkha Singh

Jeff Overton

Soren Hansen

Richard Green

Bob Tway

Rich Beem

Camilo Villegas

Tom Lehman

Angel Cabrera

Kenny Perry

Rory Sabbatini

Geoff Ogilvy

David Smail

Charlie Wi

Alastair Forsyth

Nathan Green

Thomas Levett

Michael Sim

Phil Mickelson

Ryo Ishikawa

Chris Wood

Grant Sturgeon

Bob Estes

Greg Bisconti

J.J. Henry

Paul Goydos

Sean O'Hair

71-70-71

70-73-70

75-68-70

69-76-69

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70-78-78

74-73-82

By The Associated Press

By The Associated Press

The Week in Sports

More off-island missions for athletes

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**
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REPORTER

The next batches of CNMI athletes who are scheduled to compete in off-island tournaments left Saipan last week, promising more achievements for the Commonwealth.

First to leave were sprinters' Yvonne Bennett and Clayton Kenty, who are in Berlin, Germany for the 12th IAAF World Championships in Athletics.

Actually, Bennett and Kenty have been off-island since Aug. 3, as they first participated in the Oceania Regional Championships/Micronesian Athletics Championships in Queensland, Australia from Aug. 4 to 8. They left the Land Down Under on Aug. 9, but while their 10 other teammates returned to Saipan last Monday, Bennett and Kenty just had a stopover in Guam for a connecting flight to Germany.

Kenty and Bennett, who helped the Commonwealth ruled the MAC, ousting erstwhile champion Guam,

were set to compete in the 100m qualifying races last Saturday and Sunday, respectively.

Several thousands away from the Bennett and Kenty were eight CNMI junior tennis players, who are now in Lautoka, Fiji for the 2009 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships.

Thea and Thecel Minor, Christian Miller, Rafael Jones, Benjie Decena, Melody Johnson, and Jodel Fernandez left Saipan last Wednesday with coach Jeff Race. The seven CNMI netters will join teammate Ji Hoon Heo in anchoring the North Pacific Team against the East and West squads for the POJC overall title. Heo planed in to Fiji from New Caledonia.

The POJC will start today and will run until Aug. 22. The CNMI netters will stay in Fiji for a few more days after the POJC to compete in another tournament.

The last batch of Commonwealth athletes to leave Saipan for an off-island competition was the CNMI Junior All-Star Team.

The squad is composed of Christian Mizer, Jeremy and Henry Rabauliman, Lamar Iguel, Frankie Camacho, Ricardo Dela Cruz, Aldelbert Lizama, Brian Camacho, Alan Aguon, Jared Sablan, Patrick Tenorio, Arthur Jebehn, and Poland Masaharu. The 13 CNMI youth sluggers will be competing in the World Series in Taylor Michigan. Joining the CNMI Junior All-Stars in the World Series are coaches Oliver Secharmidal and Bernard Cabrera and team manager Thelma Mizer.

The CNMI Junior All-Stars were scheduled to debut in this year's World Series against Friuli Venezia Giulia LL of Italy yesterday.

Also headed for an off-island tournament was the CNMI Women's Football Team, which will be leaving Saipan tomorrow.

The CNMI Women's Football Team were named last week and making it on the list were Natalie Hill, Madison Smith, Carrie Knight, Angela Shyrack, Meaghan Hassel-Shearer, Brenda Schultz, Lindsay Davis, Melody Mat-

son, Zoe Jewell, Katie Peters, Michiko Tenorio, Patricia Coleman, Brianna Martin, Amber Roberts, Rebecca Newman, Maryana Gramlich, Amanda Allen, Emily Gries, Elisa Fejeran, and Felicia McFarland.

They will first go to Japan tomorrow for two exhibition games before going to Tainan City, Taiwan, for the Championship 2010 Semifinals Competition.

With several CNMI athletes off-island, basketball leagues were able to dominate the local sports last week.

The 2009 IT&E Inter-Government/Business Basketball League kicked off at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium with host and defending champion IT&E winning over Public School System in the season-opener, 75-57.

IT&E won its second game against Bank of Guam, 104-70, to take the temporary lead in the 12-team league. Other winners in the first week of the government-business caging were Docomo, PSS, Micronesian Brokers, Inc., and Commonwealth Health Center.

Still in basketball, the 7th United Fil-

ipino Organization Inter-Organizational Basketball League started its playoff games last week with defending champion Samahang Ilokano at Pangasinense earning a return trip to the finals in the open division.

In the masters division, Cabalen and NMBA advanced to the semifinals, joining Bayani and Boholanos. Cabalen and Bayani's semis duel last Saturday was rained-out and will be scheduled this week. The University of Loyola and Raffy's Diner-supported Boholanos were to collide against NMBA-Ebisusya last night for the first finals berth in the masters division.

Natibu was assured of a slot in the Saipan leg of the 2009 Budweiser King and Queen of the Diamonds Softball Tournament after advancing to the finals of the second KOD qualifier.

Natibu bowed to Advance X-Terminators in the finals, 3-18, but since the latter topped the first qualifier and had gained the first KOD ticket, the former was given the second seat.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Yvonne Bennett was scheduled to compete in the 100m qualifying race in the 12th IAAF World Championships in Athletics in Berlin, Germany yesterday.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
CNMI Junior All-Stars' Jared Sablan, left, and Jeremy Rabauliman jog at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield during their last training session on Thursday.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Christian Miller is among the eight members of the CNMI Junior Tennis Team that is now in Fiji for the 2009 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Members of the CNMI Women's National Football Team perform warm-up drills during a training session at the Oleai Sports Complex Field on Thursday.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Clayton Kenty participated in the 100m qualifying race in the 12th IAAF World Championships in Athletics in Berlin, Germany on Saturday.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Public School System's Lawrence Buniag, right, tries to steal the ball from IT&E's Bruce Berline during the opening game in the 2009 IT&E Inter-Government/Business Basketball League at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
SIP's Peter Mendiola is fouled by Cabalen's Jay-R Cadag during their playoff game in the open division of the UFO caging last week at the JP Center Basketball Court.



More off-island missions for athletes

The next batches of CNMI athletes who are scheduled to compete in off-island tournaments left Saipan last week.

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Tiger claws out a 2-shot lead at the PGA

The coronation of Tiger Woods turned into a contest Saturday at the PGA Championship.

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SIP earns return trip to finals

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Samahang Ilokano at Pangasinense is guaranteed a chance to defend its title in the 7th United Filipino Organization Inter-Organizational Basketball League, following a playoff win over Northern Marianas Bartenders Association, 98-87, on Saturday night at the JP Center Basketball Court.



The Marianas Wireless-sponsored SIP duelled the Jam V Fashion-backed NMBA for the first finals seat in the Open division and the defending champion advanced to the best-of-three championship series after outplaying its foe midway in the fourth period.

SIP ruled the sixth edition of the UFO caging in 2005 after outclassing Cabalen in a best-of-three title affair and is now aiming for its fifth championship in seven years after foiling NMBA's upset bid.

NMBA was still in the game, 70-74, with 5:36 left in the fourth canto, when a quick 6-0 run on Elmer Esdrelon, Edsel Mendoza, and Brendon Tania's baskets, helped SIP pull away.

Charities from Melvin Villarin and Lerio Pagarao kept NMBA afloat, 74-80, but SIP widened the gap, anew, after getting a couple of breaks in the last three minutes of the game.

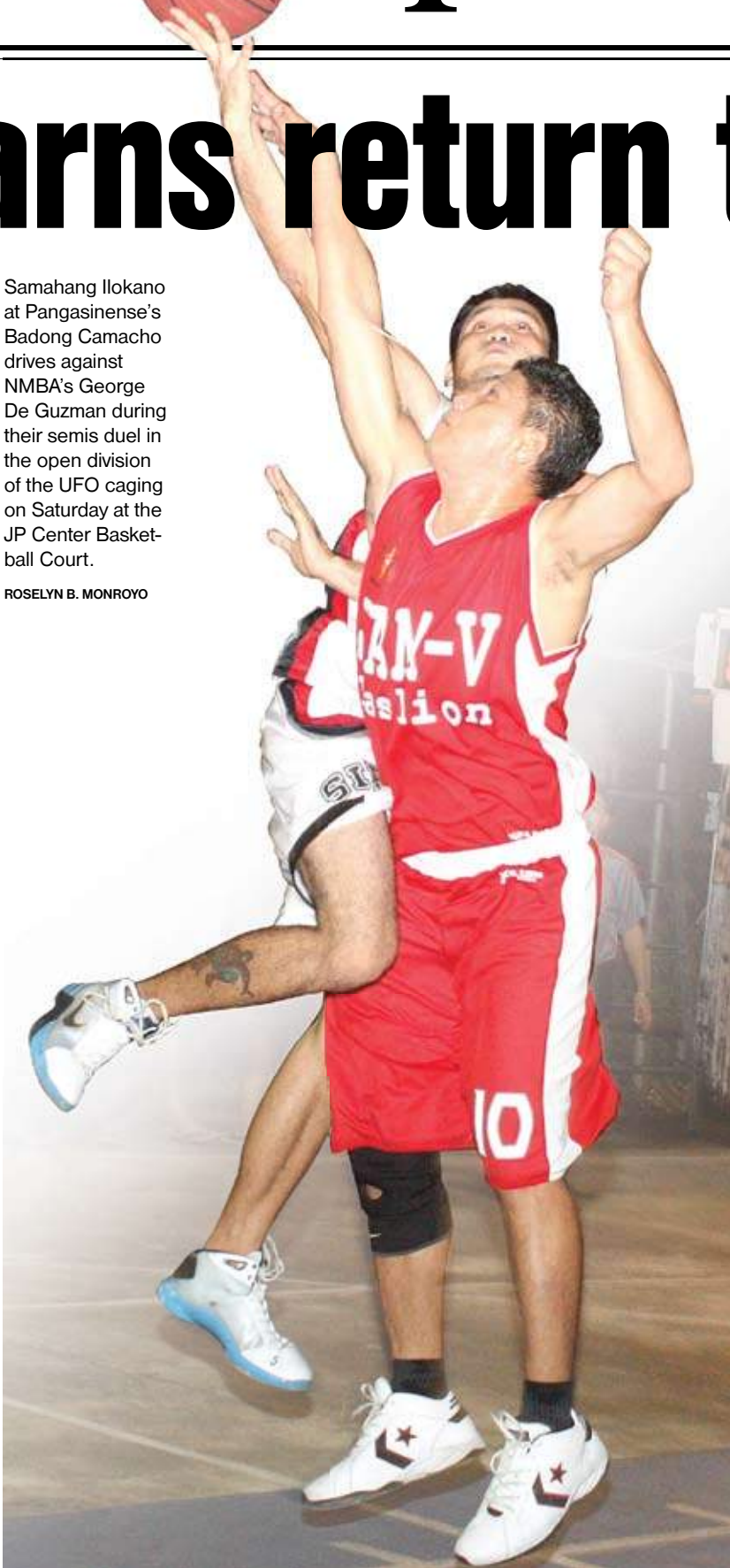
Tania pulled up for a short jumper and just when the ball seemed to rattle off the rim, it bounced back to the basket, increasing SIP's lead to eight, 82-74, with 2:40 remaining on the clock.

Mendoza then intercepted Bernard Aquino's midcourt pass to Jun Estolas, allowing Esdrelon to escape with a fastbreak layup and bringing SIP's lead

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Samahang Ilokano at Pangasinense's Badong Camacho drives against NMBA's George De Guzman during their semis duel in the open division of the UFO caging on Saturday at the JP Center Basketball Court.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Kenty ties personal best in World Championships

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Clayton Kenty tied his personal best time after clocking in at 12.99 seconds in the qualifying heat in the 100m race in the 12th IAAF World Championships in Athletics last Saturday in Berlin, Germany.

The 18-year-old CNMI bet was on Heat 12, along with seven other runners. American sprinter Michael Rod-

gers ruled the heat with his 10.25 seconds and qualified for the next round with two others. Japan's Naoki Tsukahara posted the second-fastest time on Heat 12 with his 10.28 seconds, while Guyana's Adam Harris secured the third qualifying berth after submitting 10.35 seconds.

Also racing on Heat 12 were Barbados' Ramon Gittens (10.47 seconds), Switzerland's Cedric Nabe (10.51), Seychelles' Danny D'Spuza (10.92),

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The CNMI's Clayton Kenty, seen here competing in a local race, tied his personal best time in the 100m race in the 12th IAAF World Championships in Athletics on Saturday in Berlin, Germany.

Fajardo takes Saturday 8-ball win

By MARK RABAGO
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Luis Fajardo beat winner's bracket topnotcher Rolly Villanueva twice in the finals to win the

Top Pool Bar 8-Ball Tournament last Aug. 8 at the Garapan sports bar and watering hole.

The first game of the championship round saw both players come down to their last subject balls. Villanueva got the first crack at the fi-

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Luis Fajardo is flanked by runners-up Zheng Jian Qing, left, and Rolly Villanueva after topping Saturday's Top Pool Bar 8-Ball Tournament.

CNMI netters begin POJC bid today

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REPORTER



The 2009 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships will kick off today at the Goodman Fielder International Regional Tennis Centre in Lautoka, Fiji, with eight CNMI netters anchoring the North Pacific Team's bid for the overall championships against the West and East squads.

Fresh from a series of tournaments in New Caledonia, Ji Hoon Heo will lead the North's boys' 18-and-under team and is heavily favored to take the title this year after losing to Vanuatu's Lorenzo Pineda in last year's finals. Also in the North's boys' 18-and-under squad are CNMI's Benjie Decena and Guam's Michael Tan.

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Melody Johnson, seen here going for a return in a local tournament, is among the eight CNMI junior tennis players who are now in Fiji for the 2009 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships.